MILF calls kidnap chief's arrest 'moro-moro'

STORY ON PAGE A2

NAKIPAGTSIKAHAN LANG AKO, ¿NO?

Alma turns to Nani for advice

By Michael Lim Ubac

ACTRESS Alma Moreno yesterday reportedly went to see Justice Secretary Hernando Perez to seek his advice in

ALMA/A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

GMA-7 stops airing video on beheadings

By Agnes E. Donato

TWO rival television networks have made opposing decisions on how to treat the controversial video allegedly showing the beheading of hostages by the Abu Sayyaf.

Grace de la Peña-Reyes, GMA-7 head of news operations, said the TV station

GMA-7/A18

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Friday, February 22, 2002 ★★ 64 pages / 6 sections / vol.17 / no. 76 P15 website: www.inq7.net

New US envoy expresses concern for Filipino hostage

By Dona Pazzibugan

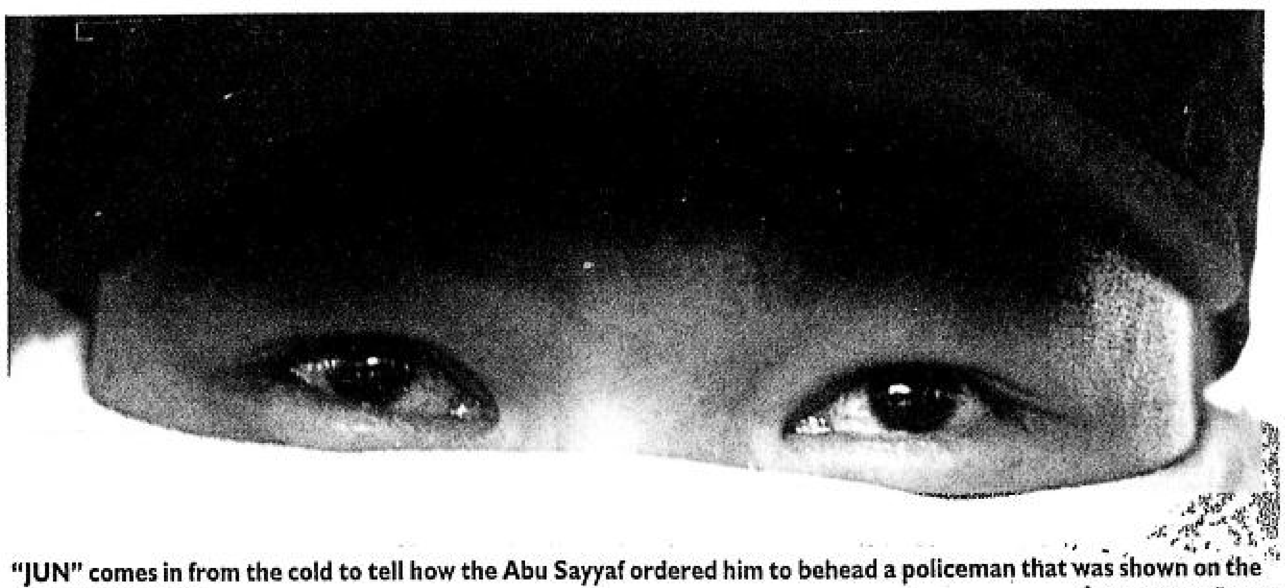
THE NEW US envoy to Manila yesterday said the recovery of Filipino hostage Ediborah Yap from the Abu Sayyaf was just as important to his government as that of Americans Martin and Gracia Burnham.

"Important as it is, it's no more important than the release of all the hostages, and that includes the Filipino hostage Yap," Ambassador Francis Joseph Ricciardone said in a chance interview in Malacañang.

"It's important that all three are released immediately, unconditionally, unharmed as President (Macapagal-) Arroyo and (US) President (George W.) Bush (have)

NEW/A18

Video 'berdugo' surfaces: I was forced to do it



"JUN" comes in from the cold to tell how the Abu Sayyaf ordered him to behead a policeman that was shown on the controversial video. VAL HANDUMON

By Julie S. Alipala, *PDI Mindanao Bureau*
Philip C. Tubeza, Rocky Nazareno and Martin P. Marfil

THE MEN shown on national television beheading soldiers captured by armed Moro men appeared to be neither Abu Sayyaf bandits nor members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

They were captives who had been forced by Abu Sayyaf bandits to decapitate the soldiers.

But the government insists that the perpetrators were Abu Sayyaf bandits, while the political opposition, including ousted President Joseph Estrada, maintains that those responsible were MILF members.

A certain "Jun" of Basilan admitted to GMA-7 that he was one of the two men who were captured on video beheading Abu

VIDEO/A18

'They can no longer hide'

Golez says US night sensors will turn tide against Abus

By Carlito Pablo

THE ABU Sayyaf bandits can run but they can no longer hide, even at night, from their pursuers.

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez yesterday said the use of sophisticated US planes and helicopters, equipped with night sensors, would turn the tide in favor of the Filipino and American soldiers hunting down about 80 bandits in Basilan.

Golez said American pilots were supposed to only train their Filipino counterparts in night flying, an integral part of the Balikatan 02-1 joint military training exercise.

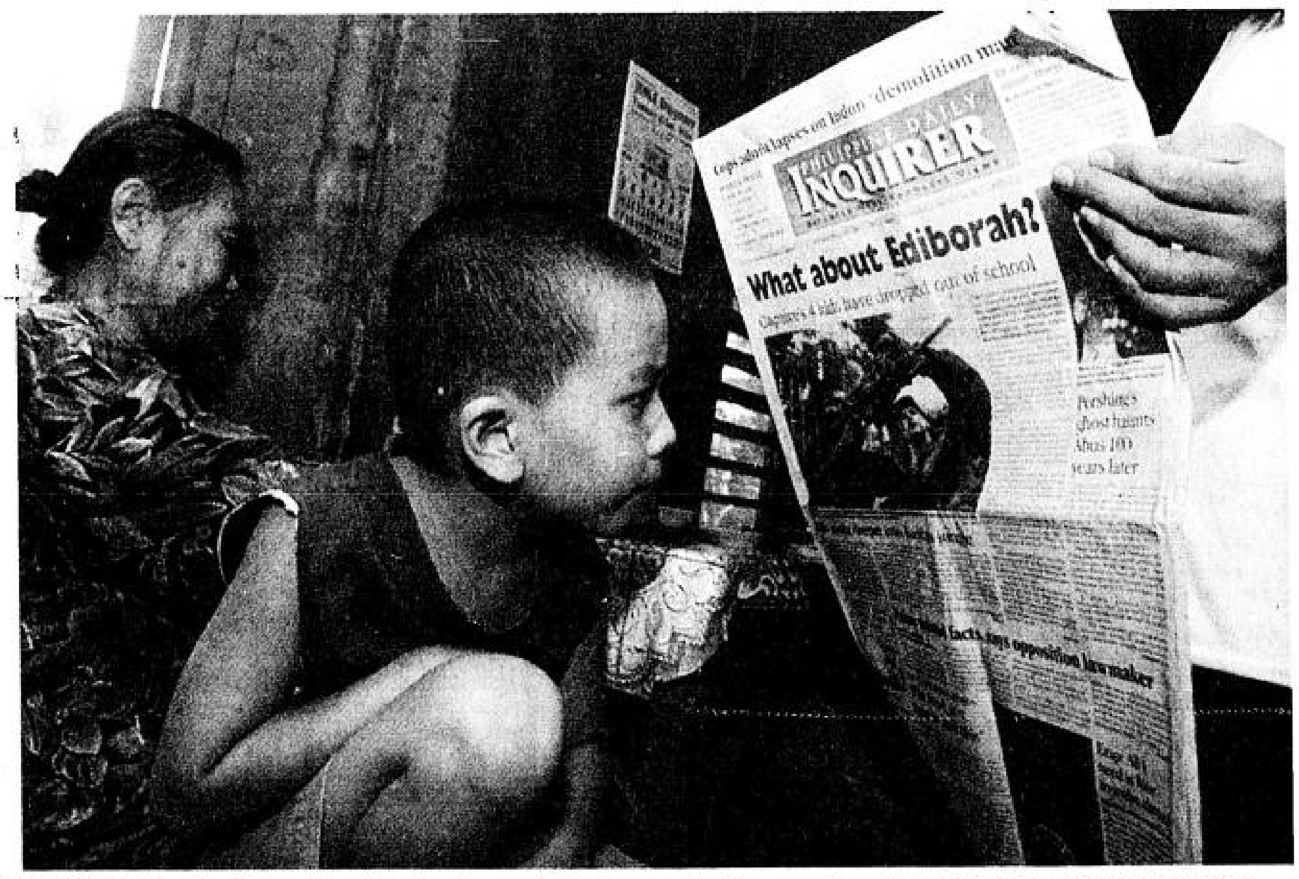
The pilots, however, may call in air strikes if they spot Abu Sayyaf bandits during such training flights, according to Golez.

"Let's say they're training to fly at night, and they see the Abu Sayyaf. What else will they do? That's vital information," he said in an interview over radio dzRH.

Golez said the night sensors and night vision goggles, which could detect body heat even in the jungle, would alter the course of the counter-terrorism war in Basilan.

For nine months, Filipino soldiers who enjoy superiority in numbers but sorely lack fighting equipment have been having a

THEY/A18



BON-BON Yap looks intently at the front page of the INQUIRER that bannered a story on his Mama Ediborah. Behind him is his Lola Fatima who was interviewed by the INQUIRER at their home in Lamitan, Basilan. VAL HANDUMON

Captive's ma says life a twin tragedy for Ediborah

By Julie S. Alipala
PDI Mindanao Bureau

LAMITAN, Basilan—Life is a twin tragedy for Ediborah Pamaran Yap, according to her 70-year-old mother Fatima.

Aside from being held hostage together with an American missionary couple by the Abu Sayyaf for over eight months, Ediborah, a nurse, had married a man derisively named by her mother after the ruthless bandit group.

With the family breadwinner in captivity, Fatima Asahim Pamaran now struggles to feed and act as a second parent to her daughter's four children—Jonathan, 22; Mark Anthony, 18; Mary Anne, 14, and Bonbon, 6.

She also looks after Ediborah's small *nipa* house on Flores Street here.

In Manila, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday assured Yap's family that every

CAPTIVE'S/A18

THE FALL OF JOSEPH ESTRADA

'Prosecutors suspected Clarissa was a setup'

By Amando Doronila

(Editor's Note. To mark the launch of "The Fall of Joseph Estrada: The Inside Story," an INQUIRER book by editorial consultant Amando Doronila published in cooperation with Anvil Publishing, and to celebrate the 16th anniversary of People Power I, we are publishing excerpts from what we believe is the definitive work on People Power II.)

THE PROSECUTION'S mystery witness, Clarissa Ocampo, nearly did not make it to the witness stand. It was not because the defense had tried to prevent her from testifying. Up until two days before she testified on Dec. 22, prosecutors had suspected she had been planted by the Equitable PCI Bank to give false or misleading testimony. As well, the prosecutors had also mistrusted the evidence supplied by the bank in Envelope No. 1 on Dec. 12 in compliance with the impeachment court's subpoena, and the evidence contained in Envelope No. 2, offered voluntarily to the court two days after the submission of the first. The prosecution was suspicious as to why the bank seemed so eager to help.

A senior bank official told us (INQUIRER, Dec. 23, 2000) that bank officials were concerned that the prosecution had focused its attention on the first envelope rather than on the second envelope. The latter, according to this official, contained documents showing the savings/current account of Jose Velarde, with deposits totaling P1.2 billion.

The account was opened on Aug. 26, 1999, with an initial deposit of P1 million, the source said. It grew to more than P1 billion, from which P500 million was withdrawn and transferred to a trust fund, an Invest-

PROSECUTORS/A4

Chavit sees trouble if Erap goes to US

MORE TROUBLE will result from allowing ousted President Joseph Estrada to leave for medical treatment abroad, former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson said yesterday.

"Kung makakaalis yan, lalong magkakagulo (If he leaves, there will be more trouble)," said Singson, whose exposé on Estrada's links to "jueteng" operators led to his impeachment and eventual ouster.

Singson's statement was in sharp contrast to assurances by opposition Rep. Agapito

CHAVIT/A6

THE FALL OF JOSEPH ESTRADA

PRESIDENT Macapagal receives a copy of Amando Doronila's book during its launch at the Manila Polo Club. ERNIE SARMIENTO

For a book launch, it was music and fun

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

FOR SUCH a serious occasion, the launching yesterday of INQUIRER columnist Amando Doronila's two books on former President Joseph Estrada's fall from power turned out to be fun.

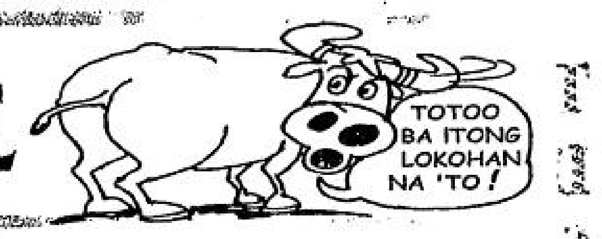
President Macapagal-Arroyo, for one, enjoyed herself so much that she "overstayed" and to everyone's surprise, even sang a song.

She belted out "O Sole Mio" with Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, who had earlier given in to requests to sing

DORONILA/A4

PDI chair Marixi Prieto (at right) talks to President Macapagal during the launching of the book, "The Fall of Joseph Estrada: The Inside Story." Beside the President are INQUIRER columnist Amando Doronila and PDI president Sandy Prieto-Romualdez. ERNIE SARMIENTO

Second FRONT PAGE


TOTOO BA ITONG LOKOHAN NA 'TO!

Moros call kidnap chief's fall 'moro-moro'

By **Anthony S. Allada**, *PDI Mindanao Bureau*
and **Cynthia D. Balana**

DAVAO CITY—The recent arrest of Pentagon gang leader Faisal Marohombsar was a "moro-moro" (staged play) aimed at covering up the involvement of police (in kidnapping activities), the Moro Islamic Liberation Front said yesterday.

"It was another form of deception staged by the police to protect their image," said Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson.

Kabalu said Marohombsar was actually in possession of a safe conduct pass issued by no less than Philippine National Police chief Director General Leandro Mendoza when he was arrested by Manila policemen last week in a Quiapo hotel.

Marohombsar's gang was reportedly behind the abduction of foreigners and Filipinos alike for ransom. Among its victims were Italian priest Giuseppe Pierantoni, automotive heiress Ma. Cecilia Bonifacio and Chinese engineer Zhang Zhong Quiang and several of his countrymen.

Last month, three members of the Pentagon gang who surrendered to authorities said the group enjoyed the protection of at least two police officials—which was why the gang's leaders were reportedly able to boast that they were not going to get caught.

Task Force Sanlahi-Pentagon chief Supt. Willie Dangane, allegedly Marohombsar's cousin, denied allegations he and another police official, Supt. Efren Alcuizar of the PNP's Region XII Anti-Narcotics Unit, were protectors of the Pentagon gang.

Task Force Sanlahi-Pentagon had been created to go after the notorious kidnap gang.

On Wednesday, Marohombsar had claimed he was actually an "action agent" assigned by the government to infiltrate the Pentagon gang that was led by Tahir Alonto.

This was denied by Chief Supt. Eduardo Matillano, PNP Region XI director, who doubted in a report to Camp Crame that Marohombsar was really a government agent.

Yesterday, Marohombsar attempted to link Interior Secretary Joey Lina and General Mendoza to the activities of the Pentagon gang.

During interrogation, Marohombsar reportedly claimed Lina and Mendoza knew about his activities.

"This is ridiculous, (but) at the same time, this is a serious matter that must be investigated thoroughly," said North Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel Piñol in an interview.

Marohombsar was reportedly involved in negotiations late last year for the release of the kidnapped priest Pierantoni.

In one of the interviews he had granted to radio stations here, he claimed his participation in talks to obtain Pierantoni's freedom had the blessings of ranking government officials, including Lina.

"That must be the line he told investigators," said an official who requested anonymity.

Also yesterday, the Senate said it would look into the arrest of the alleged Pentagon gang members, which certain quarters claimed was a hoax that was causing a serious rift in the top echelons of the PNP.

Sen. Robert Barbers, chair of the Senate committee on public order, said there was a need to find the truth behind Marohombsar's claims at the time of his arrest.

Marohombsar had said that no less than Secretary Lina and General Mendoza were behind some kidnap for ransom operations.

The controversy deepened when retired Col. Amad Lucman of the Quiapo Islamic Center said he personally knew Marohombsar, and the person presented to the media by the police was not him.

Aside from Marohombsar, the National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force (Naktaf) arrested 11 others believed to be members of the Pentagon gang.

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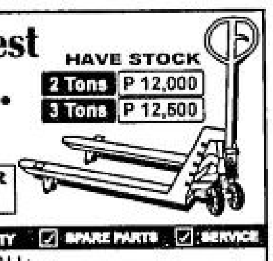

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The 'late' Mike Defensor misses Senate hearing

HOUSING and Urban Development Coordinating Council chair Michael Defensor yesterday caused the suspension of a Senate hearing on the creation of a housing department, setting back consultations for the bill's passage by another week.

The bill creating the housing department has been certified as urgent by President Macapagal-Arroyo. Defensor arrived at the Senate at around 10 a.m., half an hour after the hearing was supposed to start. Sen. Francis Pangilinan, chair of the Senate committee on housing, urban development and resettlement, was left with no choice but to cancel the hearing.

Defensor explained that he had been caught up in traffic and failed to estimate correctly the travel time from his residence at Capitol Hills in Quezon City to the Senate in Pasay City.

"I hope we can all learn from a lesson like this," said Pangilinan who has rescheduled the hearing on Feb. 28.

It was the third hearing on the pending bill. Defensor missed the first two hearings for various reasons.

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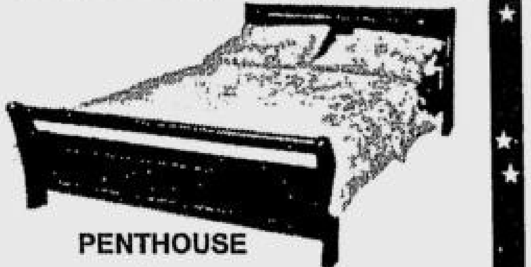

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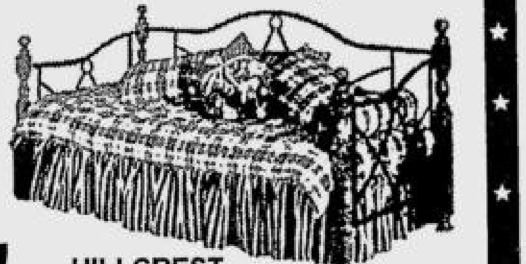

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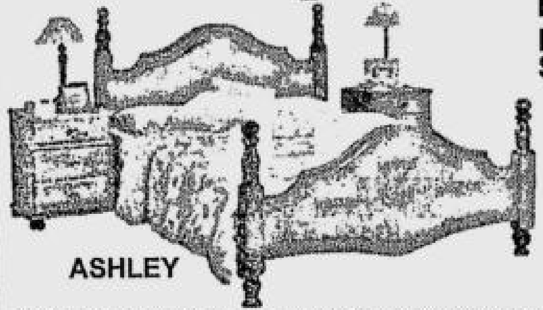

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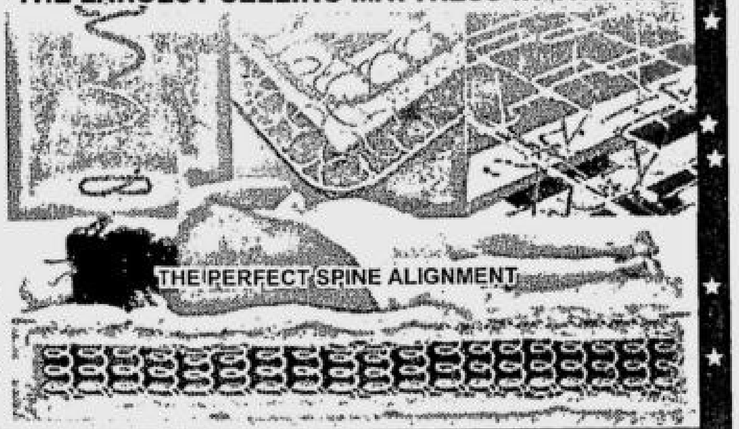

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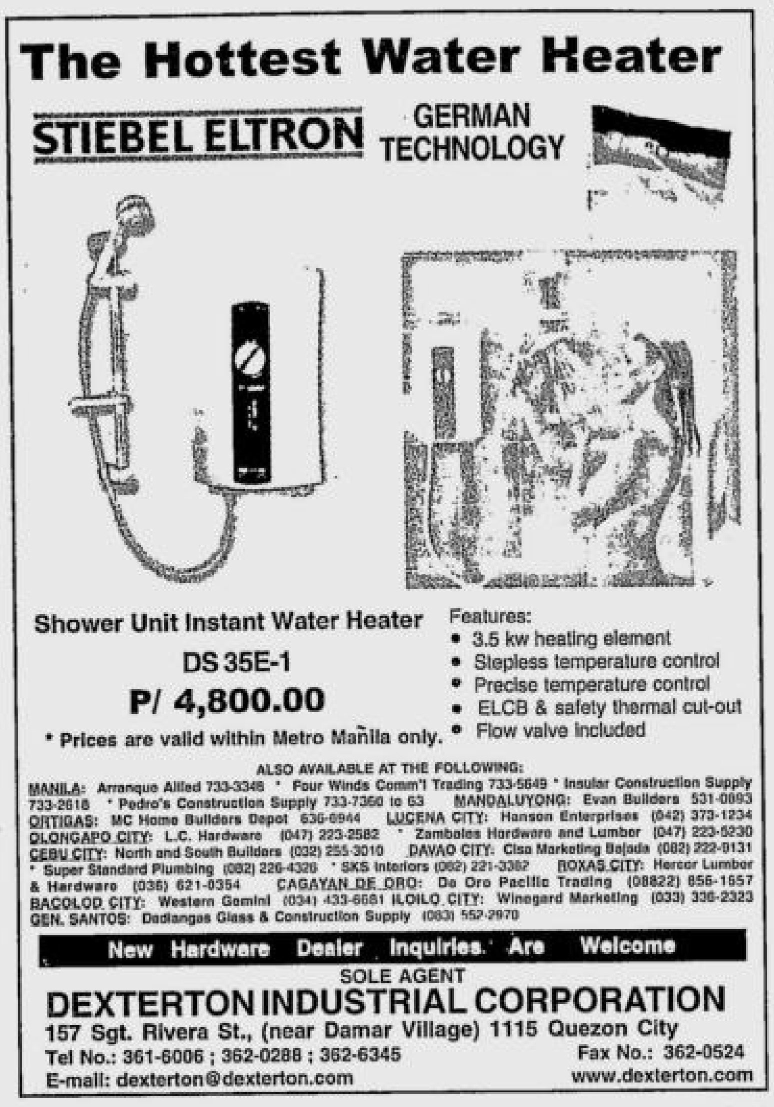
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'Prosecutors suspected Clarissa was a setup'

From page A1

ment Management Account so-called, signed by Jose Velarde. When the second envelope remained unopened, and after some prosecutors noted what appeared to be alterations on the documents in the first envelope, the bank offered Ocampo as a witness to show that it was not covering up. At the time, the source said, the bank's chairperson, George L. Go, had been standing up to "extreme pressure" for him to tamper with the documents in the first envelope. He was replaced as chairperson on Dec. 19.

The source said Go had gone to see Fr. Joaquin Bernas, dean of the Ateneo de Manila Law School, accompanied by senior bank executive Gloria Tan Climaco, and showed him the documents in the second envelope. They asked Bernas: "Is this enough to hang Mr. Estrada?" Bernas said "yes" and immediately scheduled a meeting of the bank officials with former President Corazon Aquino on Thursday evening. The bank officials pointed out that the documents in the second envelope were critical to the prosecution's case. Aquino then talked to the prosecutor, Rep. Joker Arroyo, who had been Aquino's executive secretary in 1986, presumably to impress upon him the importance of the document.

According to the source, the first envelope, opened earlier, contained the Jose Velarde savings/current account signature cards and statement of accounts. The second envelope contained the statement of accounts and a letter of Jaime Dichaves requesting for the opening of the Jose Velarde account. The second envelope was submitted upon recommendation of the bank's lawyers.

George Go

Back to George Go. The highly placed sources in the bank said he resigned with encouragement from Wilfredo Vergara, bank president, and Edilberto Javier, chief operating officer. On Dec. 18, Vergara informed Go's brothers that he wanted to resign. Vergara recommended that Ricardo Romulo, the bank's vice chairperson, be invited to replace Go as chairperson. Representatives of the government financing institutions—including the Social Security System and the Government Service Insurance System, both holding substantial shares of the bank's stocks—objected to Romulo's appointment. They preferred George Go's brother Peter. This opposition was significant because the Chinese-Filipino depositors perceived Romulo as "fighting City Hall," causing further heavy withdrawals of Chinese-Filipino money from the bank.

OCAMPO

Romulo did not know about the bank's moves to offer evidence and witnesses, the source said. "The moves were all orchestrated" by Vergara and Javier. "They both caused the resolution to be passed," authorizing the management "to provide legal, financial and logistical and other support to any and all bank officials who may give their testimony" in the impeachment trial. Vergara is Ocampo's brother-in-law, but their relationship had little to do with her appearing as witness.

Vergara and Javier met Rep. Joker Arroyo on Dec. 17 to explain the purpose of submitting the second envelope—to lead to the summoning of senior bank officials who can identify Jose Velarde as Joseph Estrada. Arroyo and another prosecutor, Rep. Oscar Moreno, suspecting a trap, ignored the explanation. In an interview, Arroyo confirmed the prosecution's suspicions.

The source said Romulo "knew that Kissa Ocampo was going to testify only at 11 a.m., Dec. 22." Ocampo testified in the afternoon of that day.

Similar account

In an interview with Romulo on March 12, 2001, he gave a similar account of the contents of the two envelopes. He said that the contents of the first envelope led to the second envelope. The second envelope contained the ledger of deposits and withdrawals of laundered money and Dichaves' letter requesting the opening of an account in the name of Jose Velarde. Romulo said: "The prosecution delayed the opening. They were hesitant to open it. They feared it was a trap. The defense objected to opening it because the P500 million debited from the account was shown in the ledger (which might be a proof) of unexplained wealth."

The day after Romulo replaced Go as chairperson, Vergara, Javier and Climaco briefed him about the situation in the bank and told him of two witnesses who could prove that Jose Velarde and Estrada were the same person. Romulo asked: "How do you propose this will come out?"

The answer: "When you open the second envelope, there's a ledger with a debit for P500 million. It's a trust account, so Clarissa Ocampo, as the bank's senior official responsible for trust account, can then link Estrada to that account."

According to Romulo, "Joker Arroyo didn't want to open the second envelope because of the letter of Dichaves, which clears Estrada in the Jose Velarde account. He did not know of the existence of the trust account and Clarissa. We were anxious of the perception we were pro-Erap. Before Dec. 22, Clarissa was unknown to me. Clarissa decided to come forward."

She talked with Minority Leader Rep. Feliciano Belmonte (chairperson of the prosecution panel). She was interrogated by the prosecution for two days. They suspected a setup."

In the morning of Dec. 22, Climaco said Vergara had talked to Clarissa who said she was willing to testify.

Repercussions

Romulo asked: "Do you realize the repercussions (in terms of withdrawals) to the bank, and does she realize the repercussions to her?"

Romulo said Clarissa told bank officials three things, first, Fernando Chua, Estrada's lawyer, had seen her to say: "You know the documents—protect the President." That scared her. Second, she was afraid of what would be done to the replacement documents prepared at a meeting in the office of defense counsel Estelito Mendoza. Third, "she would testify in the interest of truth and wanted to make a clean breast of it."

According to Romulo, part of the plan was "to destroy the documents in the first envelope." He said, "George Go did not destroy the original documents. He gave them to Vergara."

Romulo agreed with the observation that the strongest reason for Ocampo to testify was the threat to her life. "If she had not testified, she might not be able to testify and would be harmed," Romulo said.

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Doronila . . .

From age A1

"Pure Imagination."

Camacho told the appreciative audience that he was only doing it (singing) for Doronila.

The launching of the two books, "The Fall of Joseph Estrada: The Inside Story" and "Between Fires: Fifteen Perspectives on the Estrada Crisis," was the culmination of Doronila's "10 a.m. to 6 p.m. six days a week" literary labors of the past year.

The books were published by the INQUIRER and Anvil Publishing.

Some 200 guests, mostly top political figures, diplomats, businessmen and media practitioners, attended the book-launching that was held at the exclusive Manila Polo Club in Makati City.

The special guests included former President Fidel V. Ramos, Senate President Franklin Drilon, Senators Francis Pangilinan and Ramon Magsaysay Jr., Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo, presidential adviser Roberto Romulo, former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, military intelligence chief Col. Victor Corpus and Chief Supt. Reynaldo Berroya.

Not one of the persons who had been associated with Estrada came.

As guest of honor, Ms Macapagal said Doronila's work on the events behind People Power II gave a sense of closure to that chapter of the nation's history.

"It's only when these events are finally chronicled, as they have been by 'Doro' (Doronila's nickname) that one feels a sense of (things) settling down," the President said.

And she only had high praise for Doronila.

"I speak not only for myself but also for my late father when I express great admiration for Doro," she said.

"My late father, President Diosdado Macapagal, considered Doro one of the most profound writers and political analysts of our times. And he pondered upon every word that Doro wrote," she said.

"I cannot remember a time that my father ever disagreed with what Doro had to say. On my part, there are times that I do disagree with him. But this is irrelevant in tonight's setting. Tonight we celebrate good journalism," she said.

The President described Doronila's writings as "street smart and yet scholarly, his good sense forged in the crucible of incorruptibility."

"For such meaningful insights, I always take Doro very seriously," she said.

The President stayed for an hour, chatting with nearly all the guests. Her aides said they had expected her to stay for "only 30 minutes."

After she left, several guests lingered, including INQUIRER president Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez, who admitted she had initially been reluctant to support Doronila's project.

"When (he) first approached me in January last year, I thought he was being a fortune-teller more than an author.

"His predictions about the former President's downfall and his strong desire to collate information on it made me somewhat nervous, given the circumstances and the fact that the situation with Mr. Estrada wasn't exactly rosy," Prieto-Romualdez said.

Others who graced the book launching were Education Secretary Raul Roco, Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr., National Security Adviser Roilo Golez, presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao, Jaime Zobel de Ayala, Prof. Jose Abueva, former Comelec Commissioner Harriet Demetriou, Jose Concepcion, Guillermo Luz, Social Weather Stations head Mahar Mangahas, broadcasters Che-Che Lazaro and Luchi Cruz-Valdez, Cory Quirino, Maribel Ongpin and INQUIRER founder Eugenia Apostol.

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All lies, says lawyer of raps vs envoy's son

By Armand N. Nocum

"HER allegations were proven lies."

This was the response of the lawyer of Philippe Andre D. Lhuillier Jr. to charges his client had repeatedly assaulted his Filipino-American girlfriend in the United States over a period of roughly two years. Lhuillier is the son of Philippine Ambassador to Italy Philippe Lhuillier.

His girlfriend, Kelly Marian Murga Mortensen, 26, had accused Lhuillier, 23, of beating her repeatedly, sometimes with tennis racquets and golf clubs, when they had lived together in San Mateo, California, from 1999 to 2001, during fits of "irrational tantrums."

In a telephone interview yesterday, Lhuillier's San Francisco-based lawyer Solomon Wollack said Mortensen's charges had been "proven to be false."

Wollack admitted that the young Lhuillier had been charged earlier with assault by the state of California and he had pleaded "no contest" to the charge.

The case had been filed by police who had responded to a call from Mortensen's sister reporting a disturbance between Lhuillier and her sibling.

Although Mortensen was found bloodied by police, "the DA did not believe her," Wollack said.

"Under our laws, that was attempted battery, a minor offense," he said.

But Erik Humber, Mortensen's lawyer, said the no-contest plea confirmed that Lhuillier had indeed been beating his girlfriend.

Mortensen filed her own civil case against Lhuillier on July 23.

Ambassador Lhuillier's Filipino lawyer, Jose Angelito B. Bulao, yesterday sent the INQUIRER a statement denying Mortensen's charges, describing them as "categorically, brazenly and spectacularly false."

Bulao said the statement had come from Wollack, the San Francisco lawyer.

Wollack claimed Mortensen's charges were the same ones she had made against the young Lhuillier in the earlier criminal case.

"They were the same allegations for which Andre Lhuillier had taken and passed a polygraph test administered by a former FBI agent," Bulao said.

Contrary to Mortensen's claims, Bulao said, Lhuillier was "not facing criminal charges in the United States and was not a fugitive from justice."

Manta rays hunted, slaughtered

By G. Lacuarta

MANTA rays are being openly hunted in the seas of Bohol despite a government ban on the killing and selling of the said creatures, the World Wide Fund-Philippines revealed yesterday.

Lory Tan, WWF-Philippines president, said reports from Bohol showed that as many as 10 to 15 mantas per day are being caught by each fishing net particularly in the coastal villages of Bungga Mar and Pamilacan.

Tan said drift nets used to catch mantas measure 1.5-km long and 50 fathoms high, and cost at least P80,000 each. He said at least two of such huge nets are being used by fishermen in Pamilacan.

"This is no longer subsistence fishing but clearly commercial fishing," Tan said.

Tan said the sale of mantas in Bohol, where the meat is called "sannga," was quite open and public despite a current ban imposed by the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources since 1998.

Then Agriculture Secretary Salvador Escudero issued Fisheries Administrative Order 193 banning the killing and sale of manta rays and whale sharks.

"Without the BFAR's knowledge, the season for manta ray is at its peak and will end in six to seven weeks," Tan said. "The manta ray hunters of Bohol have pulled another fast one over the BFAR."

Tan said even the media in Bohol was announcing on radio that the ban on manta ray fishing had been lifted.

Sinos go bananas over RP bananas

BEIJING—China has banned imports of pineapple and banana seeds and seedlings from the Philippines because of an insect pest, state media said on Thursday.

China discovered the pest, a boreworm classified as a type of nematode, in January, the Xinhua news agency and China Daily newspaper said.

Any imports of pineapple and banana seeds and seedlings or other plants carrying the pest will be destroyed or sent back to the Philippines, they said. *Reuters*

There's no other foreign secretary

By Cynthia D. Balana

THERE is no other secretary of foreign affairs.

This was stressed yesterday by Senior Adviser on International Competitiveness Roberto Romulo when he faced the Senate committees on foreign relations and the committee on national defense and security when he testified on his supposed role in the RP-US Balikatan exercises.

Romulo had been accused by several quarters of usurping the powers of Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona and establishing "another Department of Foreign Affairs" in his Makati office.

Romulo said that as early as Feb. 6 this year, he already took the initiative to explain in writing what he had done in the field of foreign affairs in order to lay aside any doubts about his functions as the President's senior adviser on international competitiveness.

US to fire Pinoy baggage screeners

THOUSANDS of Filipino baggage screeners in the United States are expected to lose their jobs as an indirect result of the US "war on terrorism," the migrant workers group Migrante International reported yesterday.

Poe Gratela, Migrante secretary general, said this came after the Nov. 19 passage of the US Aviation Security Law disallowing immigrants from working as baggage screeners in US airports.

The law was passed in the wake of the terrorist attacks on the United States on Sept. 11.

"Immigrant baggage screeners are not to blame for 9/11. Yet thousands of them stand to lose their jobs because of a post 9/11 federal law that requires all screeners to be US citizens," Gratela quoted a statement sent by Pablo Romero, spokesperson of a US-based cause-oriented group called the "Philip Vera Cruz Project."

At least 1,200 migrant workers, mostly Filipinos, reportedly face termination in San Francisco, California alone, Gratela said.

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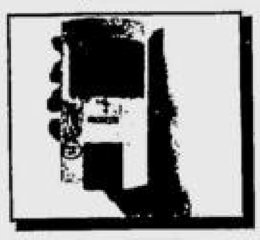

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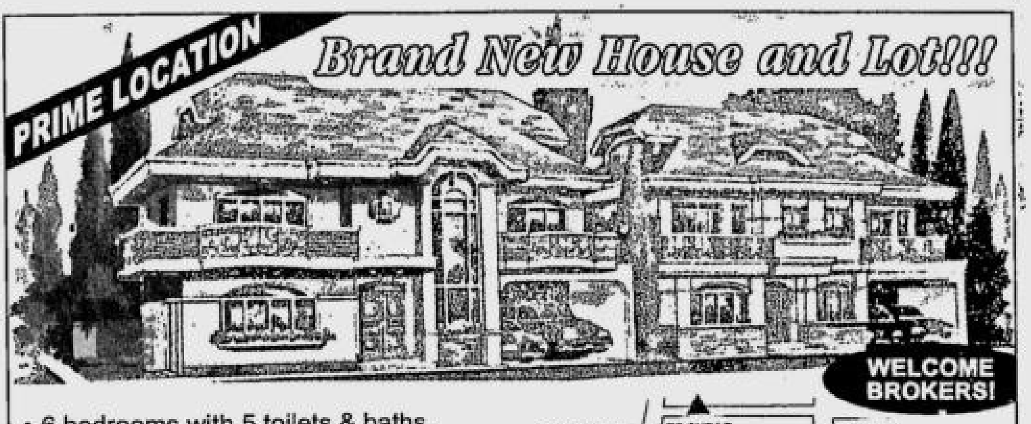

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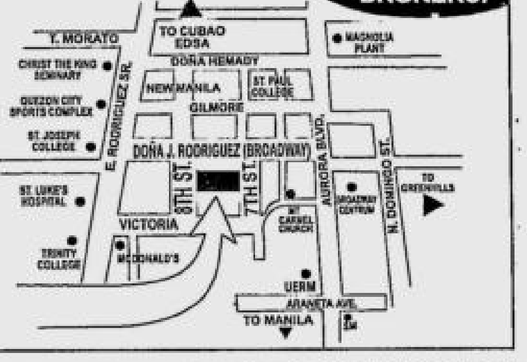

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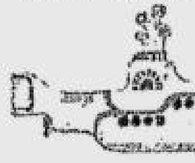

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Rangers hone killing skills in Muslim cemetery

CABUNBATA, Basilan—Abdul Nandil and Pinda Ebbah lay dead still as seven soldiers snaked through the tall grass nearby, stalking a band of Abu Sayyaf bandits.

The soldiers, clad entirely in black, were from the Philippine Army's First Scout Ranger Battalion, a Special Forces jungle-fighting unit.

They were in the middle of a Muslim graveyard in Basilan, pretending to stalk the bandits in exercises to hone their skills in the science of killing them swiftly and efficiently.

The soldiers moved silently past the graves of Nandil, who died last year, and Ebbah, who was buried in 1999.

"It just happened that our camp was built here," said their trainer, Ervin Rivera, a rail-thin lieutenant who looked hardly out of his teens.

The graves were "next to the shooting range, but we're not firing over there," he said.

Some of the tombstones at the cemetery in Cabunbata, a village just outside Basilan's capital Isabela, are wrapped in white cloth. Local Muslims say that means the dead was a royal, an important member of the community, or had gone on pilgrimage to Mecca.

Relatives are free to visit the graveyard whenever they want to, the officer told visiting journalists. No, the community had not complained that the exercises were taking place in the cemetery.

About 12 US Special Forces troops are based at the battalion's headquarters.

There have been fears of a clash of cultures that could turn the majority Muslim population of about 350,000 against the Americans.

Before deploying on Basilan, all the Americans went through a "cultural sensitivity" seminar to prevent them from running foul of Islamic beliefs and religious practices and landing themselves in trouble.

In doing the job, "you try not to involve innocent people," said US Army Sergeant First Class Peter Baziotis, a member of the 12-member "Alpha team" of the US Special Forces assigned to the Scout Ranger battalion here. ***AFP***

Chavit sees trouble if Erap goes to US

From page A1

"Butz" Aquino that letting Estrada leave for the United States for the treatment of his arthritic knees would bring "relative peace" to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Once abroad, Estrada will claim that he is still the President, who is just on leave because he fell victim to "mob rule," according to Singson. The former governor was referring to People Power II that ousted Estrada in January last year.

Singson said Estrada wanted to leave the country because the criminal cases against him were strong.

"*Wala ng lusot yan* (He won't escape conviction)," Singson told editors during his visit to the INQUIRER.

Singson, a former gambling partner of Estrada and member of his inner circle, said he did not expect Estrada to return if he were allowed to leave the country.

But Estrada said on Wednesday that he would have to stay for four months abroad for the surgery and rehabilitation therapy. He assured the public that he would return after that.

Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzales said it would be better for the Macapagal administration to let Estrada leave for the United States rather than face the possibility of Estrada dying while in detention.

Gonzales, one of the House prosecutors in the impeachment trial of Estrada, said he was told the other night that the former President, who is detained in a suite at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City, had become "thinner and weaker."

"It will be bad for the government if Erap dies while in detention," Gonzales said.

Ninoy Aquino

He said even the Marcos regime took into consideration the health of opposition leader Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. when he was allowed to leave for the United States for a heart bypass.

Gonzales recalled that the military even forcefully fed Ninoy because he had gone on hunger strike.

Gonzales said the then dictator Ferdinand Marcos did not want Ninoy to die in detention.

"I cannot accept that the Marcos dictatorship, with all its draconian schemes, is more humanitarian than the present administration," said Gonzales, who served as one of Ninoy's lawyers during his trial by a military court in 1977.

Gonzales said it was this humanitarian gesture which prompted him to sign House Resolution 437 appealing for medical treatment of Estrada abroad.

HR 437 has been signed by 136 members of the House. A counterpart resolution in the Senate has been signed by 19 senators.

Another House resolution is opposing Estrada's request to travel aboard. It was filed by Bayan Muna partylist Representatives Satur Ocampo, Liza Maza and Crispin Beltran.

Opposition Representatives Didagen Dilangalen, Abraham Mitra, Agapito Aquino, Constantino Jaraula and Emmylou Santos visited Estrada Wednesday afternoon to show him HR 437.

Weak and pale

Mitra said he learned that Estrada was barred from leaving the confines of his suite.

"He could not even exercise because he is just confined to the room. He looks weak and pale," Mitra said.

Gonzales expressed doubts that Estrada would go into exile if allowed to go abroad.

"He could take his good time in America and probably wait for 2004 but he cannot be a fugitive all his life," Gonzales said, noting that he would be within reach of the law on account of an extradition treaty with the United States.

Gonzales also brushed aside apprehensions that Estrada would no longer come back to face his plunder trial.

He pointed out to Rep. Ronaldo Zamora, Estrada's former executive secretary, that if Estrada were to remain in exile he might face conviction.

"If he does not come back, it will affect his plunder case because flight is an admission of guilt," Gonzales said.

Gonzales resented insinuations by a newspaper columnist that those who signed the resolution were paid by the Estrada camp.

"That is what I don't like (about critics of the move)," he said.

Gonzales admitted that the resolution was directed at the Sandiganbayan but added that the anti-graft court had previously turned down congressional resolutions including the one seeking to allow rape convict Romeo Jalosjos, a Zamboanga del Norte congressman, to attend House sessions. ***With a report from Juliet L. Javellana***

Erratum

In the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System 124th Founding Anniversary Special Project which appeared on pages B4 and B5 of the Inquirer on Feb. 15, 2002, the headline of the story on page B5 should have read "An engineer's lifetime affair with water."

We deeply regret the error and extend our sincerest apologies to the MWSS and to administrator Orlando C. Andrade for the oversight.

Alma turns to Nani for advice

From page A1

connection with her marital problems with Parañaque City Mayor Joey Marquez.

Moreno, wearing a black blouse and pants, created a stir in the Department of Justice main building on Padre Faura Street in Manila after employees and reporters saw her entering Perez's office at past 10 a.m.

She was accompanied by her lawyer, Ellen Veza.

But instead of suggesting a legal remedy to resolve the couple's marital problem, Perez advised the actress to "kiss and make up" with Marquez.

"I told her that if it were possible, it would be best if they threshed out their differences and go back to each other's arms," Perez told reporters after his closed-door meeting with Moreno.

"But if this is not possible (if they can't save their marriage), they should part ways quietly and without animosity," he said.

Not about Joey

Moreno, when interviewed by reporters, denied her meeting with Perez had something to do with her estranged husband.

She said she was not the one who would bring to the DOJ her personal quarrel with Marquez.

"Actually, I just tagged along my attorney. It was she who had an appointment with Secretary Perez," she said.

"We had a meeting this morning and when she told me she had an appointment with Secretary Perez, I asked her if I could go with her so I could pay him a courtesy call," she added.

Pressed to give a categorical answer on whether her visit to Perez signified her decision to seek legal remedies for her souring love affair, Moreno was adamant: "Definitely not."

Veza backed her client's claims and said she was really the one who had an appointment with Perez.

"I have other concerns with the secretary, several cases not related to Ms Alma Moreno," the lawyer stressed.

Still hoping

Moreno told reporters that despite her highly publicized breakup with Marquez, she was still hoping that everything would turn out right.

"And I'm also praying that the people who keep on writing things about our problems will stop doing it," Moreno said.

Marquez announced late last month the breakup of his marriage to Moreno. Their children—Yeoj, Win-Win, VJ and Em-Em—have stayed with the mayor since then.

Hopes for a happy ending for the couple were dashed when Marquez went to the States reportedly to file for a divorce.

The two were married in Las Vegas in 1989 and had their church wedding in Manila in 1995.

TO REMEMBER IS TO HOPE

*(A Statement of the **University of Santo Tomas** on the commemoration of the EDSA 1986 People Power Revolution)*

Sixteen years after EDSA, the nation is still drifting and rudderless, subject to occasional but unsustained bursts of action and creativity, overall a prey to apathy and indifference. This is disheartening considering that EDSA was widely considered by historians to have touched off in its wake a wave of pro-democracy movements worldwide. More frustrating this is considering that only a year ago, EDSA had a repeat performance, reaffirming the force and relevance of people power.

The failure of the nation to sustain the ideals of EDSA perhaps owes to a failure to learn and reflect on the lessons of the people power revolution. As a participant in the revolutions of 1986 and 2001, as a 391-year-old institution in prayerful pursuit of the Truth, the Pontifical University declares:

That EDSA was not mainly about Marcos, Cory, Enrile, Ramos, or Cardinal Sin; not about politics and political agendas, pronounced or unpronounced; not about battalions, troops and fancy armory; not about political and ideological alliances that move and alter like shifting sands.

EDSA was rather about simple, nameless and ordinary Filipinos braving the tanks and arsenal of a despised and abusive autocrat; it was about a coming together of a people from a broad spectrum of political and ideological loyalties and beliefs united by faith in God and impelled by the hope of a better tomorrow; it was about the massing of warm bodies defying sophisticated killing machines so that bloodshed could be averted and peace engendered; it was about universal compassion propelling a sea of humanity, here and elsewhere in the world, to position itself between combatants- in the line of fire, as it were – to abolish animosity and hostility and to foster concord and charity.

EDSA, therefore, was peace, unity and justice prevailing over the blind armies propelled by hate and ambition. It was a movement of God's people making history animated by hope and love that, however, must attain complete fruition and must be sustained by the constant strivings of the people.

Toward the realization of the hopes and dreams of EDSA, as Filipinos we need to value simplicity above privileges and entitlements. Let us work for unity while respecting diversity. Let us learn to treat one another as persons, regardless of race, sex, economic status, and creed. Let us adopt peace over and above the costly strategies and instruments of war. Let us cultivate the power of compassion to transcend all barriers and labels, providing spaces for dialogue and discourse for all, even our enemies.

Most of all, let the spirit of EDSA permeate our everyday life. Let us apply its lessons through concrete development programs that are feasible, simple and practical, eliminating waste and avoiding over-ambition and over-reaching, taking to heart the lesson that resources, both human and material, have been frittered away and principles have been compromised in the name of peace and development. Let our development projects involve the stakeholders - the Filipino people themselves who are not mere targets of our compassion, but are our active partners in the establishment of a society of compassion and development. Let us not mobilize people for change. Rather let us mobilize one another for change.

Above all, let us always remember God's benevolence and magnificence that are at work in history. All human strivings and struggles are nothing without God stirring and stimulating them. Let us remember the lesson of martial law, when we lived in darkness, in a "land of shadows" (Isaiah 9:2). EDSA cast God's light on that engulfing darkness so that "now the light is shining upon the people," and the people have become "a light to all nations" (Isaiah 49:6). People power lives because it is the power of the people of God. People power lives because the people of God remember in faith, struggle in hope, and labor in love.

*(Everyone is invited to join the Thomasian community in commemorating the anniversary of the Edsa 1986 Revolution with a MASS FOR PEACE on **February 22, 2002 at 5:30 p.m.** at the **Santisimo Rosario Parish Church, UST**)*

Onwards 2011...

DACER-CORBITO SLAYS

Court of appeals stops arraignment

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE ARRAIGNMENT of the 22 suspects in the Dacer-Corbito double murder case has been postponed after the Court of Appeals issued a temporary restraining order yesterday.

"Our hands are tied. Even though we want the accused to be arraigned, we cannot do it," Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 18 acting presiding Judge Edelwina Catubig Pastoral told defense and prosecution lawyers during a hearing yesterday afternoon.

Pastoral was supposed to hear yesterday the defense motion to dismiss the case because, up to now, the suspects have yet to be arraigned. Aurelio Trampe, lawyer of one of the defendants, said the law requires the arraignment of defendants within 30 days after a court takes cognizance of their case.

But the hearing did not push through after the appellate court came out with the temporary restraining order, which usually lasts for 60 days.

The TRO came after government lawyers filed a motion of certiorari before the Supreme Court so that Senior Supt. Cezar Mancao, Senior Supt. Michael Ray Aquino, Senior Supt. Teofilo Vina, and a certain Allan Villanueva could be included in the charge sheet.

The prosecution also wants suspect-turned-state witness Insp. Glenn Dumlao excluded from the charge sheet, said State Prosecutor Juan Navera.

The High Court referred the matter to the Court of Appeals and the appellate court issued the TRO yesterday.

Navera said the TRO was "favorable" to the prosecution since they are still waiting for the arrest of the other four suspects. Aquino and Mancao are allegedly in Canada.

Most of the suspects were members of the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Task Force (Paoctf), headed by then PNP chief Panfilo Lacson.

PR man Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and his driver Emmanuel Corbito were kidnapped on Nov. 19, 2000 at the corner of Osmeña Highway and Zobel Roxas Street in Makati. Dacer's white Toyota Revo was found at the bottom of a ravine in Maragondon, Cavite.

The victims' dentures were later recovered in a dry creek bed in Indang, Cavite. Corbito's ring was also found there.

Pope determined to visit RP again

By Armand N. Nocum

POPE John Paul II is determined to visit the Philippines next year, but the trip will depend on his failing health or the security situation here.

Newly-appointed Philippine Ambassador to the Vatican Francisco Acevedo Alba, said the Pope told him about his plans of returning to the Philippines for the third time in January.

"He personally wants to come here. He cannot forget the kind of reception he got here... the enthusiasm and hospitality of the Filipinos," said Alba, who had a 30-minute talk with the Pope when Alba presented his credentials to him.

He said the Pope has a "special love for the Philippines," the world's third biggest Catholic country after Brazil and Mexico.

"When he was here, he got the biggest crowd ever assembled in the world," Alba told Church reporters in a lunch in Intramuros.

But he said the trip will depend on whether the 81-year-old Pope's failing health can take it. The Pope was here in 1981 and in 1995.

Comelec feud goes to SC

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE COMMISSION on Elections has taken its perpetual bickering to the Supreme Court with four commissioners asking the court to deny the petition filed by their chairman, Alfredo Benipayo.

Comelec Commissioners Luzviminda Tancangco, Ralph Lantion, Rufino Javier and Mehol Sadain, comprising the majority of the Comelec en banc, signed the four-page manifestation submitted yesterday afternoon.

The four commissioners said the petition for certiorari and prohibition earlier submitted by Benipayo was neither known to nor authorized by the commission en banc, and did not represent the Comelec's official stand on the controversial Voters Registration and Identification System.

Benipayo's petition, which was also signed by commissioners Resurreccion Borra and Florentino Tuason Jr., seeks to nullify the decision of a Quezon City court compelling the Comelec to honor and finalize the deal with the Photokina-led consortium.

QC Judge Luisa Quijano-Padilla has ordered the Comelec last week to "immediately resume negotiations to formalize the execution of the contract" with Photokina and its partners and refrain from finding an alternative to the VRIS project. Benipayo appealed the ruling to the high court.

Farmers say no to direct payment

FARMERS' groups yesterday assailed a plan of the Department of Agrarian Reform to make farmer-beneficiaries pay for the lands acquired under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program instead of the government shouldering the costs.

Rafael Mariano, chair of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, warned the "direct payment scheme" being eyed by Secretary Hernani Braganza would further result in dispossession of lands and force farmers to enter into lopsided purchase arrangements with landowners. DAR said Congress had approved a budget of only P2.8 billion for land acquisition.

DIVIDEND NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Directors of Sun Life Financial Services of Canada Inc. has declared a dividend of $0.14 per share, in Canadian currency, on the outstanding common shares of the Corporation payable on March 31, 2002, to shareholders of record as at the close of business on February 26, 2002.

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Sick

EDITORIAL

SOMETHING strange must be going on in many of the country's small hospitals. Depending on who is talking, either some of their patients develop amnesia soon after their confinement, or their owners and administrators are prone to hallucination, imagining patients where there are none. That is according to an I-Team report filed by Jerry Esplanada and published in this paper earlier this week.

Dozens of people interviewed by investigators from the Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth) denied that they were ever confined in the small provincial hospitals that claimed payment for their supposed hospitalization and treatment. In Zamboanga del Sur, for example, at least eight people went to a community hospital for free medical checkup and some free medicines, and were pleasantly surprised to get some groceries in addition. Later they got a bigger surprise when they learned that the hospital had claimed payment for part of their hospital expenses from PhilHealth. The same hospital also filed claims for medicines given to a patient one day before he was actually confined as well as X-ray and laboratory fees for a handful of patients whose names could not be found in the hospital's logbook.

In another hospital in South Cotabato, a PhilHealth team found more than a hundred pages of fabricated claim forms and other documents with false entries. Some of the forms were filled by persons who had yet to be confined, while other forms had been postdated. In Bohol, another PhilHealth team found more than 1,000 pages of fabricated forms and supporting documents with false entries.

Bigger hospitals do it differently. Nineteen hospitals, including some run by the government and some of the most prestigious in the country, have been found to have either extended the period of confinement or filed double or multiple claims for some of their patients.

A total of 54 hospitals either are under investigation or have been found to have filed fraudulent claims. However, hospital officials invariably deny there was ever any attempt to commit fraud. Clerical error was the most common excuse they gave.

Clearly, those errors were very costly—not to the hospitals which made them, but to the national health insurance program. A PhilHealth report prepared last year said 4 percent of the claims filed in the year 2000 were tainted with fraud or questionable. With total claims amounting to P6.8 billion, that means P272 million was lost to fraud that year. A lawyer working in PhilHealth's anti-fraud unit put last year's losses at the same percentage, but with claims rising to P7.7 billion, the corporation must have lost about P306 million.

The situation was much worse about a decade ago. Sen. Juan Flavier, who served as health secretary during the term of President Fidel V. Ramos, said at least 30 percent of claims for Medicare payment were fraudulent. (Medicare was the forerunner of PhilHealth.) "Cases of ghost patients, medicines and laboratory expenses were rampant," he said.

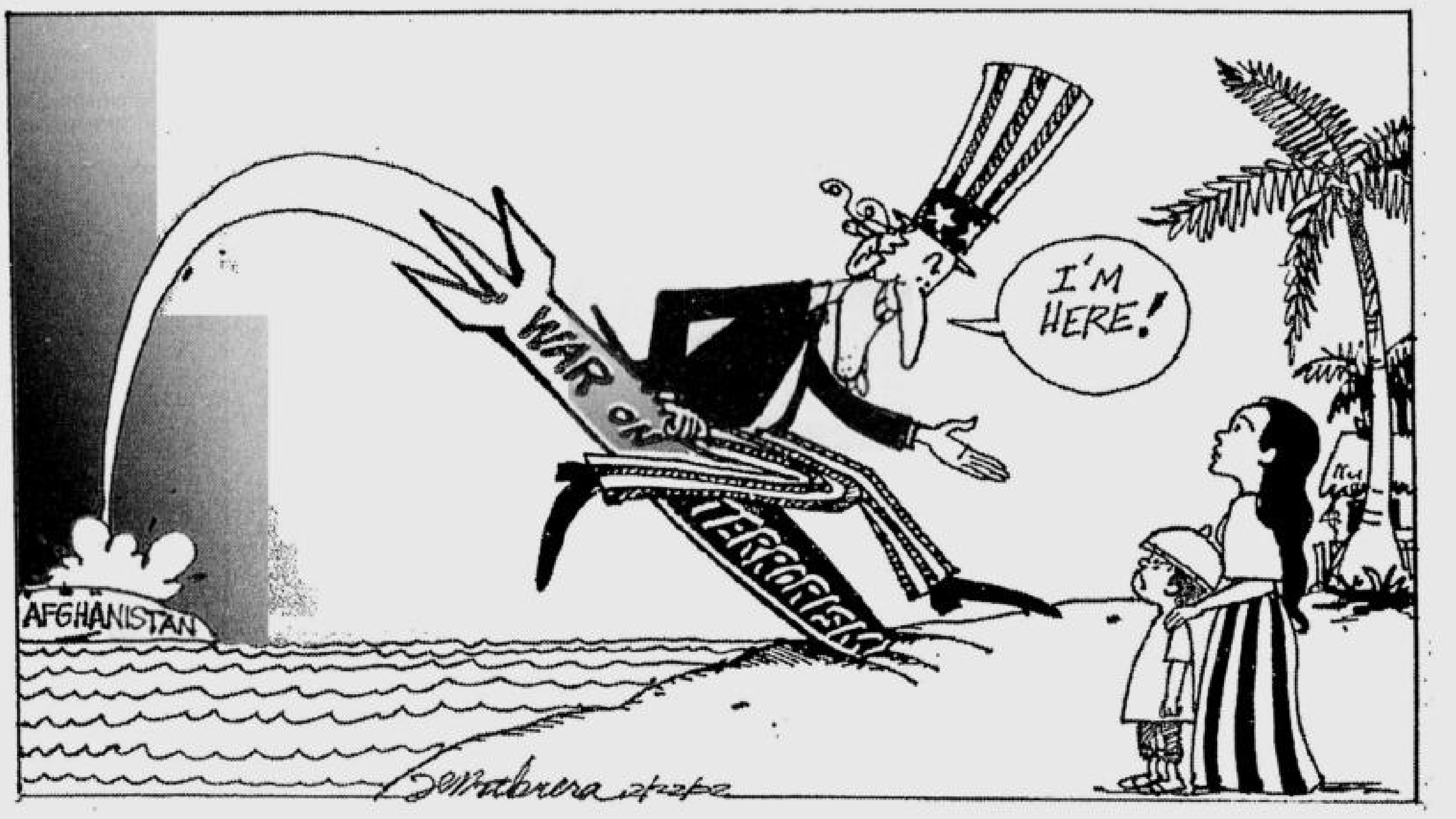
How was PhilHealth able to cut its losses dramatically? Dr. Francisco Duque III, PhilHealth president, said computerization was the key. "We were able to control multiple and overlapping claims because of our computerization program," he said.

Going by the figures that are available, computers no doubt have worked wonders. But still PhilHealth counts losses in the hundreds of millions. And granted the losses as a percentage of claims remain the same, the amount is bound to grow as more and more people are covered by the system. (Duque says their target is to enroll about 10 million people in the next five or six years.)

To minimize the losses further, PhilHealth will have to rely more on men than on machines. Dr. Bu Castro, secretary general of the Philippine Medical Association, has admitted not only that some doctors are "*mukhang pera,*" there are also others who have "criminal minds." And they can outwit the machine, if they have the mind to do so.

The cure Flavier prescribes is prosecution. But as a PhilHealth lawyer has noted, ghost patients who come forward to expose fraud can be easily persuaded to take back their statements.

Obviously, PhilHealth itself has a lot of persuading to do. But it has one very powerful argument in its favor. Doctors who cheat are doctors who kill, by denying PhilHealth members of the full benefits they are entitled to enjoy.



Move Bonifacio's monument to Luneta

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

I DON'T understand it. First, the television networks show the videotape of the Abu Sayyaf beheading captured soldiers, then they keep asking the people if the tape should have been shown at all. Shouldn't they have decided that first before showing the tape? Isn't decision-making the responsibility of network executives? Doesn't the Kapisanan ng mga Broadkaster ng Pilipinas have rules regarding controversial visuals like this?

And why was it Press Undersecretary Bobby Capco who released the tape to the networks and defends its showing when it is Manuel Sanchez who is the undersecretary for broadcast? When Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo issued a statement to the media without clearing it with him, Sanchez immediately scolded him publicly. Now that Capco is stepping into his turf and usurping his functions, why is he oh so silent?

I don't understand it.

* * *

Caloocan Mayor Rey Malonzo wants to transfer the Bonifacio Monument at Monumento to Tala, Novaliches, to give way to the extension of the MRT (Metro Rail Transit) from West Avenue in Quezon City to Monumento in Caloocan and connect it with the LRT (Light Rail Transit). The monument should indeed be transferred—but not to Tala where few people would see it.

The Bonifacio Monument, the masterpiece of National Artist Guillermo Tolentino and one of the finest sculptures in the world, should be appreciated by as many people as possible, Filipinos and foreigners alike. It belongs to the whole Filipino nation, not to Caloocan City alone.

The monument was erected at its present site decades ago when that spot was the entrance to the city. Avenida Rizal, the main road to Manila, and MacArthur Highway, the main highway to the North, meet here. It was surrounded by wide open space. The monument was visible to travelers while they were still way out on MacArthur Highway. It was the signal that their journey was about to end; they had reached their destination.

But unsightly urban sprawl caught up with Andres Bonifacio and his Katipuneros. The monument is now surrounded by tall buildings, a wet market and the terminals of the LRT and jeepneys and buses. It is in the midst of heavy vehicular and pedestrian traffic at all hours. Still, Bonifacio and his fighters are lonely where they are. Few people bother to cross the rotunda to gaze up at the statues. Crossing that wide road is hazardous to their health; they can be run over by those infernal buses and jeepneys. Worse, the acid rain produced by the exhausts of hundreds of thousands of vehicles is eating up the metal of the statues.

The monument was designed to be viewed up close. One has to look up close at the facial expressions and gestures of the Katipuneros to appreciate the statues fully. One has to gaze at them closely, carefully and at length to appreciate the genius of Tolentino, the sculptor.

Clearly, the monument is already out of place where it is. It needs a new site, surrounded by wide open space, so that people can appreciate the monument as a whole from a distance, and then walk up close to gaze at the details of the statues. There is no other place in the whole Metro Manila that answers those requirements but Rizal Park, specifically that portion between the Quirino Grandstand and Roxas Boulevard, opposite the Rizal Monument. The two heroes will stand facing each other. The Bonifacio Monument can stand in the middle of that portion of the park. Its towering spire, topped by an angel, lighted at night, would be visible from anywhere in Manila and from the bay and, like the Washington Monument in Washington, D.C., serve as a landmark.

It will be a wonderful complement to the Board Walk behind Quirino Grandstand and to Mayor Lito Atienza's development of adjacent Plaza Lawton and environs.

But there are already two Bonifacio monuments in the area, some will say. So what? Andres Bonifacio is a native of Manila and there can be no excess of his monuments in his native city. The point is there is no better place for his monument but Rizal Park.

The portion where his monument will stand can even be named Bonifacio Park. The park is big enough for our two top heroes.

* * *

The Philets Foundation Inc., an alumni association of the Faculty of Philosophy and Letters of the University of Sto. Tomas, will honor two of its members who have distinguished themselves in the diplomatic service at a testimonial dinner at 7 p.m. on March 2 at the Club Filipino in Greenhills, San Juan.

To be honored are career Ambassador Sonia Cataumber-Brady, currently assistant secretary for policy planning and coordinator of the Department of Foreign Affairs, and Manila Standard Publisher Alejandro del Rosario, newly confirmed Philippine ambassador to Hungary.

The testimonial will coincide with the general assembly and election of 10 members of the board of trustees.

Most of the outstanding journalists now staffing the different newspapers in the Philippines come from the UST Philets, so the foundation is giving recognition to alumni who have distinguished themselves in other fields other than journalism.

Former Sen. Francisco Tatad, himself a Philet, will lead a panel of speakers during the affair.

Philets are requested to contact the foundation secretariat (Menchu Bon) for details of the dinner and elections at Tel. Nos. 928-5117 and 456-9339.

* * *

KAPIHAN NOTES: So people can join the anniversary celebration of the Edsa People Power Revolution this Monday, Feb. 25, there will be no Kapihan sa Manila forum on that day.

The forum will be resumed next Monday, March 4.

Skull and crossbones

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

FRANCIS Bernardo (PDI, 2/20/02) is a little harsh in his condemnation of local artists who are trying to fight piracy. They are merely being hypocritical, he says.

"Where do you think the background music of many of our movies come from?" he asks. And he supplies the answer: They are lifted from Hollywood soundtracks. One local teen romance, he says, features of all things, music from "Jurassic Park." And a local radio show features the theme from "Hawaii Five-O." Is it piracy only when local artists get ripped off and not foreign ones?

No, it is not. But I for one wouldn't mind that government, quite apart from local artists, move strenuously to fight the pirating only of local products. Which is my beef with the local artists who are in this crusade, the fact that—completely contrary to what Bernardo thinks—they are not just trying to protect their own products but foreign ones as well. It's foolish, and not just from a nationalist viewpoint, though that viewpoint remains a valid and potent one. It's so on practical and even ethical grounds.

The ethical part comes from the fact that the agency the local artists are using to fight piracy is a public one. That is the Videogram Board. It is an office paid for by taxpayers' money. Or to put it in a less abstract way, it is an agency you and I pay to keep. Now why on earth should I agree to have government spend the money it deducts from my income every month to protect the interests of Hollywood or those of foreign recording companies? Whenever I see an official of the Videogram Board announce on TV that they have successfully raided a pirate's lair and confiscated contraband—and the footage shows foreign movies and albums of foreign recording artists—I do not feel elated, I feel like shooting the fellow. We keep complaining of being a poor country with scant resources. There must be something wrong with our sense of priorities if we use our scant resources for this.

The notion that it is to our interest to do this because otherwise we would be blacklisted by the world is vapid. China is the most notorious pirate of all—it isn't just cloning VCDs anymore, it is cloning DVDs and selling them cheap—yet foreign countries are begging to trade with it and foreign companies are begging to get in. Or to use the example of smaller countries, Malaysia and Thailand are notorious pirates too. There's a whole building in Bangkok where pirated software is being sold on regular shops. Yet they have no problems trading and getting foreign investments. The lesson is simple: You have something to trade, other countries will trade with you. You have something to offer, other countries will invest in you. Whatever flag you fly—even the skull and crossbones. A flag, not quite incidentally, once proudly flown by the countries that now loudly complain about it.

The practicality part comes from the fact that it is hard to fight piracy on two fronts. It is hard enough fighting the pirating of local products, it is next to impossible fighting the pirating of local products and foreign ones. One Videogram Board official hinted at how the war is daunting, if indeed it can be won at all. They confiscate the pirated stuff in one shop in the morning, he said, and the same shop has a fresh supply in the afternoon. It takes only three seconds to produce a copy in the mass-production copying machines of pirates. How can you fight that?

Which brings me to why I believe fighting piracy isn't just a lost cause but an unenlightened one. I've said this before, but it bears saying again and again. The problem with all this piracy business is that you do not know who the real pirates are. That is particularly true of recorded music. The cost of producing a music CD is now very low, to go by the cost of a blank CD, which is on average P15. You have a reasonably powerful computer and software and MIDI software, and you practically have a studio. Who then are the real—or bigger—pirates, the people who copy the albums and sell them in Quiapo, Divisoria and Virra Mall for less than a hundred bucks, or the recording companies who produce the albums and sell them to the public for more than four hundred bucks?

I have many musician friends who have made albums through record companies but who have remained starving artists despite their albums doing well. Where does the money go? Go figure. Clearly, this "piracy" does not ravage recording artists, it ravages recording executives, who are superfluous to the process anyway. The price of an album today is artificially high. You have a situation like that, and piracy will happen as surely as day follows night. The Videogram Board calls it piracy, others call it supply and demand.

There is in fact one guaranteed way to stop piracy, as a host of experts have pointed out. That is for the price of music albums to reflect their true value. A legitimate CD sells for a hundred bucks, there is no reason why people should prefer the pirated copy, with its coarse material and badly printed literature (though the contents are an exact clone) to the original one. There is no reason why people shouldn't support their favorite artist. But a gap of more than P300 per CD will strain the loyalty of the stoutest fan.

That is really what the local artists who are trying to fight piracy should be looking at. That is the only solution to the problem. There is no other.

While at this, while I myself would not go as far as Bernardo in calling them hypocritical, I have one very interesting question for them. Which is: Are the word processing programs they are writing their position papers with licensed originals?

* * *

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com

Beyond Edsa and People Power

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

TODAY marks the 16th anniversary of the outbreak of the military mutiny that sparked the Feb. 22-25, 1986 People Power Revolution. There are fewer and more modest commemorations this year, and people are less nostalgic about Edsa I than they were in previous years.

There will be no big rallies either at the People Power monument or at the Edsa Shrine, except token ceremonies. Sixteen years into the first Edsa uprising, the ardor for celebrating it as a landmark event manifesting raw democracy as a method of deposing extremely popular leaders has cooled. Edsa II, which deposed President Joseph Estrada and installed Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in the presidency, followed by Edsa III, which triggered the storming of Malacañang by pro-Estrada mobs on May 1, 2001, have raised questions whether people power has become an unbridled force to short-cut constitutional methods and sweep aside institutions.

The experiences in these three people power movements have uncovered the ugly and explosive nature of urban poverty fueling unrest and fanned by upper class political demagogues. They have given different forms to people power. And a number of people are now beginning to think that not only is people power becoming a habit in making political change but also its overuse is dangerous to democracy and political stability.

Edsa I and II represent short-cuts on democracy, dislodging leaders before their time is up. Perhaps, because of the lengthy tenure of former President Ferdinand Marcos (16 years in office, equivalent to a presidency for life and his abominable corruption and human rights abuses) it was easy to justify people power to end his abuses.

Edsa II, which deposed Estrada in just more than two years of his presidency, derived inspiration from People Power I, which indeed was the model of both military intervention and street demonstrations. But when the urban poor rose in response to the stoking of their social grievances by opposition politicians, it was clear that people power had become an ogre and it was a game that could be played to abbreviate the term of political leaders.

One of the first to see the danger of the excesses of people power as an instrument of political change was Jaime Cardinal Sin, himself a key initiator of the first people power movement. He has banned crowds from assembling at the Edsa Shrine, the center of massive demonstrations of Edsa II, ostensibly because he wants to prevent the desecration of the shrine, defiled by the excreta of People Power III.

The ban on the shrine, except for religious worship, excludes all forms of mass demonstration, including those initiated by the middle class, the poor and the self-righteous segments of non-government mass organizations facetiously labeled as "civil society." It has the effect of defusing enthusiasm for people power.

According to political scientists, as far back as in the 1960s, a high state of political mobilization—and the three people power movements were such phenomenon—puts a heavy demand on the political system and leads to its breakdown.

Edsa I and II damaged institutions that lend to political stability in a democracy. Edsa II was a consequence of the breakdown of the constitutional process of impeachment, but it also abridged Estrada's electoral term, damaging the stability of institutions and processes that underpin democracy.

Congress, the political parties and the presidency no longer sit on institutional foundations. These institutions have been undermined and in many cases disregarded by political leaders themselves or by populist movements, now called people power, that worship turbulence as the weapon for leadership change.

Hardly had the Macapagal administration warmed its seat than the streets resonated again with echoes of people power mobilized by disgruntled popular forces allied with her in the move to oust Estrada. This administration is both a beneficiary and a victim of people power that has gone out of definition and control. It is thus sitting on the knife's edge of people power that can be turned against her. After three people power episodes, one is never sure whether it is a force for good or just plain exuberant mob rule on the rampage. As an instrument for reform, people power has been a disappointment.

People power is by nature anti-institution. It is impatient with institutions, especially electoral terms. The Macapagal administration, which ascended the presidency through an extra-electoral route—i.e., military intervention that withdrew support from the Estrada administration and mass demonstrations in the streets—has two more years to go. But already, many groups which claim the capacity to mobilize the masses are clamoring for her removal and another plunge into the unknown for a new leadership.

We call this clamor and the proclivity to invoke people power as manifestations of a healthy democracy. They may be—up to a point. But an increasing number of leaders in government, in the Church and in non-government organizations are beginning to think that it is time to go back to restoring damaged political institutions and allow them to work. There is indeed a backlash against the excesses of people power. The decline of nostalgia over the euphoria of the 1986 People Power Revolution is a healthy sign that we are beginning to look beyond people power to stabilize our democracy.

Remarkable women, remarkable stories

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

A WIDOW whose husband upon his death left her with seven children to raise. A single parent who, aside from having to raise her child who was born as a result of rape, must also support her parents and siblings. A young woman who pursues a high school education despite a childhood rape and a failed relationship with an abusive man. A janitress who despite the lack of formal education shows enough smarts to take on clerical duties for which she becomes the target of snide remarks. A woman whose husband drifts from job to job, leaving her to look after their family's welfare through her own handicraft business and yet still finding time to get involved in community activities. And another widow who, after her husband's death from cancer, must support her daughter and younger sister even if, because she doesn't hold a college degree, she is continually bypassed for promotions or turned down for better-paying jobs.

These are just some of the women I "met" this week when I sat as a judge for the "Women's Opportunity Awards" of the Soroptimist International, Philippines Region. A program of Soroptimist International of the Americas (to which the Philippines belongs), the Women's Opportunity Awards are cash grants for deserving but financially handicapped women who are the primary or sole breadwinners of their households. The awards are meant to help the women pursue a college education and thereby not only improve their chances of landing in higher-paying positions or earning more from their businesses, but also expand their sphere of influence.

The WOA begins at the Club level, where cash awards may vary, while Club-level winners become eligible to vie for the Region-level awards. Each year, three Region awards are granted in the Philippines Region: $5,000 for the top award, and $3,000 each to two other winners. The top award winner of the Region then vies for the Grand International Award which brings with it a cash award of $10,000.

* * *

"MY gosh, they're all married to abusive men!" exclaimed Isabel Caro Wilson, former ambassador to Spain, as she looked through the entries of the Club-level winners and read their personal accounts. (The other judge was Dr. Guillerma Fabie, head of the NCR regional office for non-formal education of the Department of Education.)

Indeed, looking through the entries, one notes the many things the women have in common. Many had either left or were leaving abusive spouses or partners who had turned them into the family's sole breadwinner. The single women had abandoned or simply could not pursue college studies because they needed to support their parents and siblings. A few were also survivors of rape and sexual abuse in their childhood and adolescence.

And yet, despite their histories of abuse, abandonment and constant struggle, the women evinced little bitterness or despair. They were all full of dreams and hopeful about the future, mapping their own roads to a better life for themselves and their families.

* * *

TAKE, for instance, the story of the widow with seven children. Even while her husband was living, her life was far from comfortable or secure. With seven children to raise, her husband's wages as a parking lot attendant at the Cebu airport always fell short of their daily needs.

But she and the children were plunged into outright hardship after her husband was killed, gunned down by an air force major who was in the midst of a heated argument with a lady friend when he was unfortunate enough to come knocking on the major's car window to ask for the parking fee.

Friends of the major approached the widow, offering generous "compensation" for her loss. With seven children depending on her, the world would have understood if she chose to take the money, arguing that her husband could no longer be brought back to life and it was time to look after the living.

Instead, the widow spurned the offers, sought help and support from a victims' rights group, and then pursued the case against her husband's killer. Justice was done, eventually. The major was sentenced to life imprisonment. But her struggle to provide for her children continues. While the airport authorities gave her a job, her lack of a college education prevents her from finding better-paying positions.

* * *

WHAT most impressed me about the women was that they were not in search of a hand-out but just a hand up. Despite the bad breaks that came their way, they continued to believe that something better was waiting around the corner, and they needed only a little bit of help to get there.

In the 30 years that the Women's Opportunity Awards have been given, the awards brochure states, they have "helped thousands of women to reclaim their dreams. For their part, award recipients have inspired others with their personal stories of courage and determination."

While thumbing through the documents, I commented that one blessing from an exercise like this was "realizing that my life isn't as hard as I thought, that my problems aren't as big as they seem."

I don't know if "inspired" is the word for what I felt at the end of the session. But the day certainly drew to a close on a far better mood than when it started. My thanks to the Soroptimists, especially to Linda Ramos Aquino, the regional awards chair, and to Tes Choa, governor of the Soroptimists International Philippines Region, in whose lovely home we gathered and "met" these remarkable women.

Seeing heroes raw

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

MY fashionable sisters are horrified by my "style" that puts a premium on comfort over looks. This means old clothes, undershirts with holes (that's natural air-conditioning), beat-up shoes, white shirts and pants in black or blue. I don't even mind if my buttons are on the wrong way. If it's any consolation, I have better hair than Albert Einstein. People don't mind what I wear except my students who keep track of everything I wear and when I wear these. (White shirt all the time. If he wears a shirt with color, expect a surprise test!). Despite all this, I am keen on lifestyle lists of what is in and what is out.

Maybe it was the unimaginative food, but last Saturday, at a party, I amused myself by watching people—who they were, what they wore, who they talked to, who was IN and who was OUT. Obviously Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay and his wife, former mayor Dr. Elenita Binay, were a power couple and very much in. They could not eat dessert in peace because of people buzzing around making polite conversation. Then there was Imelda Marcos who made the other end of the room tilt when she entered fashionably late. Everyone stared or whispered about her just as they did the Binays, but only a handful were daring (or kind) enough to stay with her after the obligatory greetings. Worse, no one fought for a photo opportunity with Ms Marcos. Surveying the scene, I imagined the party transported to the late 1970s where the Binays would be out in the cold behind the potted plants and Ms Marcos would be the life of the evening. I would like to think that by now Ms Marcos knows who her real friends are.

Seeing the wheel of fortune turn in real life is a flash of nirvana for a historian. It is rare for historians to see such a dramatic turn of events in one lifetime. That evening I also noticed that Ms Marcos has aged considerably compared with her official Malacañang portraits. In my lifetime I have seen the rich, famous, or powerful afflicted by illness or old age. Muhammad Ali or the Pope shaking with Parkinson's disease has made me less demanding of public figures. Manuel Quezon and Ferdinand Marcos hid their illnesses from the public, but now we have the swashbuckling Joseph Estrada seeking knee surgery in the United States. If public figures in our lifetime can be sick, why is it hard to imagine Emilio Aguinaldo down with malaria, Apolinario Mabini crippled by polio, or Jose Rizal down with a flu? Why can't we imagine our heroes beyond the pages of textbooks?

Marcelo H. del Pilar's letters to his wife Tsanay are quite touching because they reveal a human side to the Propaganda Movement. We often forget that heroes had families and that Del Pilar left his wife and two children in the Philippines to fight for things greater than himself. We remember him as a hero, but I'm sure that for those two girls left orphans, that sacrifice for the country is bittersweet. In a letter dated Feb. 4, 1890, Del Pilar informs his wife that he is sending home a painting—a portrait made by Juan Luna. Earlier he had sent home a photograph that made his daughter Anita ask why he had no hands. Anita begged her mother to buy Del Pilar a pair of hands! Was this the famous portrait of Del Pilar standing, with his hand in his coat like Napoleon? Is this the headshot? Thus, Del Pilar promised to send a full-body photograph next time. For those who only see Del Pilar as a hero in photographs and monuments—with or without hands—it is a revelation to read letters describing his health.

Writing from Barcelona on May 30,1889 Del Pilar described what appears to be a stiff neck. He woke up with a pain in his neck projecting from the nape to the left side of his body. It hurt when he moved and he explained this away as "*nalinsad na ugat.*" Though he got expert medical opinion from his friend Galicano Apacible, he was unwilling to pay for real medicine. (There were no free physician's samples then.) He met someone in a café who prescribed chicken oil for his neck. Once the oil was applied, he wrapped his neck up and slept soundly. Despite the *adobo* perfume, he claimed this was more effective than real medicine. In the same letter he expressed concern over a cholera epidemic in the Philippines and warned his wife and children against eating *pansit* and *lumpia*.

Del Pilar complained about the cold weather. Moving from one Madrid apartment to another due to inadequate heating, he narrated waking up one night shivering. It was so cold he vomited. That evening he got up and put on his: "*baro, pantalon, chaleco, chaque, gaban, zapatos, gorra.*" He returned to bed fully clothed and covered himself with two blankets. Next morning he quit the house saying, "I will die in that house if I did not leave it, can you imagine that at noon, even if it was not yet winter I had to wear gloves indoors, and when I leave the house I have to remove the gloves because the heat is irritating?"

As a historian, I always try to see beyond or below the surface knowing that there is more to heroes than nationalism. More to history than dates, names, places. To see heroes raw is to appreciate their sacrifice.

* * *

Comments to ambeth@admu.edu.ph

Words that make me cry

HIGH BLOOD

Mary V. Vidal

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. **—Ed.**

MY best friend in recent years is Marcia. Once in a while, she says a Spanish word and I cry. We are going to a movie and as I get out of the car, she says: Do you have your "*abrigo*"? *Abrigo*! And I shed tears, remembering my mother. One day she gave me a tiny Swiss knife. She said: A "*cortapluma*" always comes in handy. I choked. I thought of my father who often used a *cortapluma*. Marcia once said that my neckline was "*escotada*" and I wept again because my mother sometimes said that about my dress. My mother also required that I wear an "*enagua*" under my skirt.

Abrigo is the Spanish word for shawl or any wrap against the cold. *Cortapluma* is a penknife. *Escotada* is a low neckline. *Enagua* refers to a half slip. Except from people my age or older, you don't often hear those words anymore. I doubt if my children understand even one of them. Perceptively Marcia says that it is because I did or do not use these words often enough with them. Vocabulary is a true and living heritage, yet we are as casual about it as we are of our slippers.

My grandson Luis, 3 years old, is a smart aleck. His remarks make me giggle or gag. One day I said, "You are so '*articulante*.'" And I heard my mother's voice saying that same word, *articulante* (quick to reason out), with suitable pride or exasperation. Or I say that my granddaughter Rocio is "*lista* (bright)." And I again hear my mother's voice with its shiver of doting whenever she said that word.

In these my golden years, Spanish words make me cry. They take me back to the home of my childhood. I hear my mother and my aunts speaking. I recapture their delight or censure. I am once again a little girl, caressed or reproved by these words.

No one really spoke Spanish in my first home, but the speech was liberally sprinkled with Spanish terms. "*Chofer*" for the driver. "*Auto*" for the car. "*Criada*" for the maid. "*Pescado*" (pronounced "*pescao*") for the steamed fish served with "*salsa verde*" (green sauce but it was white). "*Solomillo*" for the beef. "*Chuleta*" for the breaded pork chop. "*Segundo almuerzo*" for the mid-morning snack. "*Cena*" for dinner. "*Ponche* (eggnog)" for the nightcap the sickly took.

They said "*carajo*" if a boy was naughty; "*pilla*" if referring to a girl. But I seldom heard "*sin verguenza* (shameless)" used in my home. Neither was "*caramba*" nor any other expletive heard among my genteel kinfolk. Once in a while, I heard them say that a girl was "*descarada*" and that was strong. Literally, *descarada* means "without a face" but my aunts meant brazen. They also said "*cuchina*" about anyone who was dirty physically or otherwise. I learned to say "*puñeta*" from the Filipino movies but not from the women of my childhood home.

Every ailment was treated with a "*purga* (laxative)" or "*lavativa* (enema)" or "*ventuza* (hot suction)." "*Cobrecama*" meant the coverlet for the bed, "*escalera*" meant the stairs and "*caida*" meant the top of the stairs. "*Casillas*" referred to the toilet and "*orinola*" was the chamber pot. Spoken to the driver, "*mano*" meant turn right and "*silla*" meant turn left.

Be it known that there is not a single drop of Spanish blood or chromosome in me. As far as can be traced, neither my father nor my mother had any Spanish ancestor. My mother's great grandfather was French but that does not count in this discussion. Or does it? For it was my mother who was avid that I should learn to speak Spanish. "*Derecho*," she said, not in dribs and drabs. Every summer break from my high school, she placed me under the tutelage of a Spanish nun for "*conversaciones en Castellano.*" In my college years, she placed me as a boarder in the Institucion Teresiana (1955 to 1958) to be able to read as well as converse in Spanish. She went into this with fervor, even if neither she nor my father could converse in Spanish.

Today I can understand Spanish if it is an insular or a San Juan *mestizo* who speaks it but not a true-blue native from Madrid or the Spanish provinces. Neither King Juan Carlos nor Antonio Samaranch makes sense to me but I get the gist of the news on TV. I read journalistic Spanish fairly well, especially Hola magazine. I enjoy sitting in the midst of local Spaniards or Spanish-speaking Filipinos who use the language as a secret code to malign or insult people around them. I understand every word they say, including those referring to me as "*esa gordita* (fat one)."

My friend Luisita is part Spanish, part American and part Filipino. She was brought up by her grandmother who relocated to Manila from Navarra, Northern Spain. Lui's "*abuelita* (grandmother)" spoke only Spanish to everyone (including her maid and the market vendors) and to Lui, then growing up in Ermita. Now that she is a grandmother herself, Lui speaks English to her grandchildren but counsels them in Spanish. "*A Dios rogando, con mazo dando*. (Pray but work hard, too)." "*La mona aunque la vista de seda, mona se queda* (A monkey even in silk remains a monkey)." "*El hombre se casa cuando quiere, la mujer cuando puede*. (A man gets married when he wishes, a woman when she can)." In repeating these sayings, Lui says she hears her grandmother right down to the crispy Navarro accent. In reverting to Spanish, she siphons from the force of her grandmother's mordant irony.

Some people are nostalgic about schools, about neighborhoods and movies. Some people are nostalgic about other people as Lui is about her *abuelita*. Are some people, like me, nostalgic about words? If you are, tell me. Or as the Spanish say on the phone: "*Digame.*"

Mary V. Vidal, 63, lives and works in Pasig City. A widow, she has two daughters, five sons and four grandchildren. On weekends, she runs an inn in Laguna.

THEY SAID

Fear of kidnapping

"We are lifesavers, we treat pains, not receive pain and agony from the hands of lawless groups."

—Dr. Abdulla Dumama of Cotabato City on not responding to night calls due to fear of being kidnapped

Loneliest job

"The presidency is the loneliest job. It's where the buck stops, so once in a while, we should giver her a pat on the back."

—Rep. Florencio Abad, sympathizing with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo who lamented she was not being appreciated by the public

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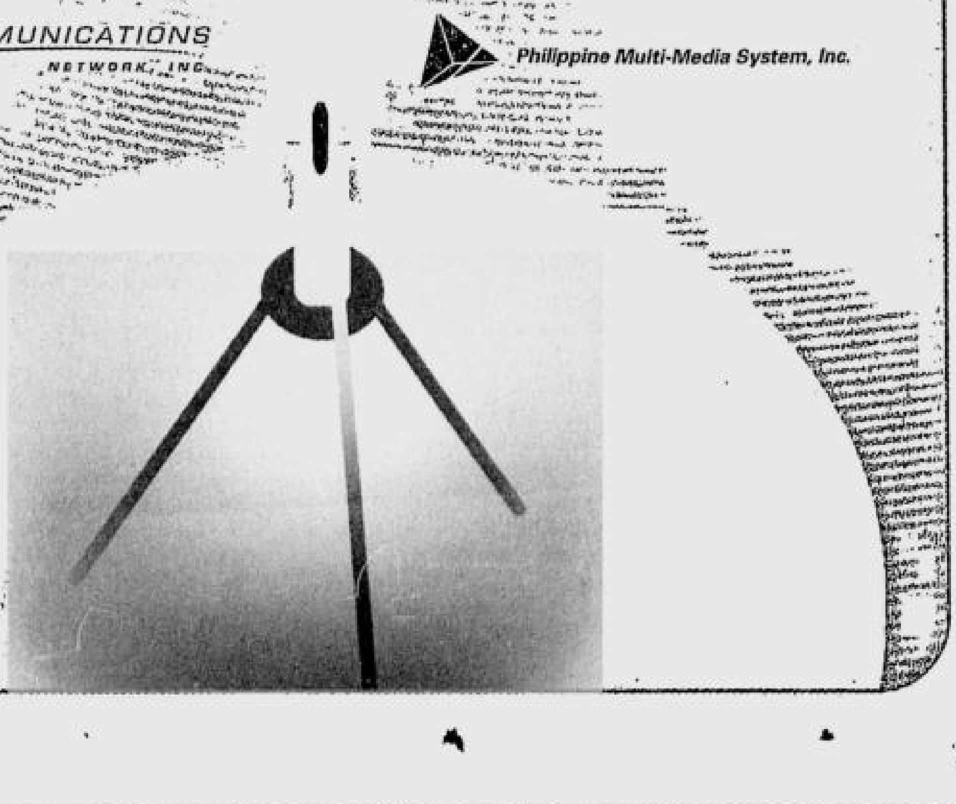

Let all of them go with Erap

THE SENATE and House-sponsored resolutions that would allow deposed President Joseph Estrada to undergo medical treatment abroad are a blatant intervention and pressure on the judiciary.

However, I will endorse the appeal, on one condition: that all 19 senators and 129 congressmen who signed the resolution join Estrada in the United States and stay there until he comes home to face trial.

Since he would rather stay in exile than return to prison, we shall be rid forever of this noxious, burden of 149 worthless politicos. And there will be dancing in the streets.

—J.S. ONG, 13 San Mateo, Barrio Capitolyo, Pasig City

Where's that jet?

VICTOR C. Agustin is wrong again! Twice in one week!

The Baguio Country Club has not acquired a Citation Corporate Jet or any other aircraft using club funds contrary to the malicious assertion in Agustin's Feb. 6 column.

Agustin's column on Feb. 8 is also way out! There is only a simple case of unjust vexation filed against a rank and file employee. The sexual harassment case was dismissed and rejected by the investigating prosecutor. No appeal was made by the complainant, a disgruntled applicant whose bid to become a member of the Baguio Country Club had been rejected by the board.

Agustin would do well to verify his sources of information so he can avoid more libel cases in addition to the ones already filed and pending against him as criminal Case Nos. 17892-R, 17893-R, 17894-R and 17895-R before the Regional Trial Court of Baguio City, Branch III.

—FEDERICO R. AGCAOILI, president, Baguio Country Club, Country Club Road, Baguio City

Tamaraw population by DENR count

LETTERS PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

THIS is in connection with the letter titled, "How now the tamaraw?" (PDI, 12/12/01)

The letter-writer asked the Department of Environment and Natural Resources if the tamaraw population, which he said was reported as 369 in October 2000 remains so or has it decreased allegedly due to hunting for human consumption ("*pulutan*"). In this regard, please be informed of the following:

1. The tamaraw estimates which were undertaken by experts using an acceptable and standard methodology show that in the 1900s, the population of the tamaraw in the whole island of Mindoro was around 10,000 (Harrison, 1969); in 1975, the estimates ranged from 150-200 heads (Kuehn, 1977); in 1987, the estimate was about 356 heads, of which 145 were observed in Mts. Iglit-Baco National Park (Conservation and Resource Management Foundation Inc.); and, in 1991, the estimate was 133 heads from the sampling area of 1,880 hectares. (Callo and Lustria) The basis of the report for the 369 heads was not clarified.

From our own tamaraw population count conducted through the PAWB-Tamaraw Conservation Program (TCP) in May 2000 and April 2001 in an area of about 4,000 hectares in MIBNP, comparative analysis shows that there was an increase of 21 percent in the tamaraw population that is, from 154 heads actually sighted in 2000 to 187 in 2001. We attribute this increase to the effective protection of the MIBNF by the joint group of TCP and MIBNP Protected Areas Office, and higher level of awareness and more active involvement of the local people in the government's conservation efforts for the species.

—HEHERSON T. ALVAREZ, secretary, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

Turf wars must stop if anti-kidnap mission is to work

I AM very disturbed by the reported turf war among police units tasked to neutralize kidnap-for-ransom syndicates in the country. The internal squabble is not doing the anti-kidnapping campaign any good.

Instead of engaging in spats, the police units involved should rally behind the national anti-kidnapping task force tasked to handle kidnapping problems. The government, on the other hand, should meet the requirements of the task force so it could effectively discharge its functions.

Unless this is done, I'm afraid kidnap-for-ransom syndicates will continue to wreak havoc in our society and the minds of the people, particularly Filipino-Chinese like myself, could never be put at ease.

—EMMABELLE D. CHUA, Evangelista Street, BF Homes, Parañaque City

A time when we most need help

I DON'T know why our friends from the Left and opposition politicians are making a big thing out of the Balikatan exercises. Don't they know what is good for the country? Or are they protesting just for the heck of it?

This is the time we need help most. This is the time when we should show support for our President the same way the Americans support President George W. Bush. Instead, we pull each other down and fight among ourselves. Just what kind of people are we?

The Balikatan exercises are a yearly routine for many countries like Japan, Taiwan, Korea, Germany, England and many others. Names like Team Spirit, Operation Phoenix, Unitas and Defix in Cuba are even welcomed by most countries, and don't tell me that our sense of nationalism is far greater than theirs. We have it all wrong and our false pride is pulling us down.

Where was the outcry for sovereignty when the Chinese violated our rights in the Spratlys and their fishermen were poaching in our waters? Where was the outcry when our brothers and sisters were being mistreated overseas? Where was the cry to defend our sovereignty when Malaysian patrol boats entered our territory?

Nationalism, love of country—that's what we shout every time. But that's all there is, shout and noise, no action.

Do we really love our country? When we throw our garbage anywhere, is that how we show love for our country? When we can't even follow simple traffic regulations like stop, yield, fall in line, etc. is that showing our love for our country? We have a lot to learn.

We always blame the Americans for our problems, but never ourselves. Prostitution, exploitation, AIDS—the Americans have no monopoly of these things. They are worldwide problems. Even our own countrymen and women could be AIDS carriers. I have seen our *kababayan* working on ocean-going ships. They're no angels either. They don't go to picnics; some are out having a good time after a long time at sea. Others also sell their bodies to survive.

We have our problems to solve. Let's just do it. We have asked the Americans for help because we need it. We should at least be thankful for it, if not, why ask for help? It's as simple as that.

Some of us may say, "Yankee go home!" But a lot more will say, "Please take me with you!" There's nothing that our politicians can do about it. America is a power to be reckoned with whether we like it or not.

I'm not here to defend Americans. They can defend themselves. I'm just here to tell it like I see it.

—NICK ROCES, Dingle, Iloilo

Stop this pampering of Erap

KONSYENSYANG Pilipino condemns in the strongest terms the orchestrated and brazen attempt by some members of the Senate and the House to pressure the judiciary, an independent and co-equal branch of government, into allowing deposed President Joseph Estrada a window of opportunity to escape justice for the heinous crime of plunder he committed against the Filipino people.

Since well-known orthopedic practitioners have categorically stated that the expertise and equipment needed for the operation of Estrada's knee are available here, the insistence to allow Erap to go to the United States is a clear indication that the real intent and purpose of such a ploy is far from being purely humanitarian. The assurance that Erap will return because he will not risk tarnishing his honor is a big joke. Where was this honor when he was engaging in criminal activities, committing impeachable offenses and plundering the economy? This looks more like a desperate attempt to escape justice. And all his accomplices in this despicable act will be held accountable and will be made to pay dearly in all future elections by the Filipino people who rose in revolt against corruption in People Power II and are even now mobilizing to engage in concerted action against graft and corruption. The conviction of Erap is a strategic blow against corruption so that we can stop the hemorrhaging of resources needed to save our people from poverty and bring our country forward.

In effect, these Erap coddlers would rather cripple our anti-corruption efforts just to accommodate a panicky plunderer who does not have the guts to pay for his crimes. Enough of this double standard of justice. Enough of this pampering of Erap. Let's get justice done.

And please, don't disrespect the memory of Ninoy Aquino by drawing a parallel. Aquino was a freedom fighter, a hero in the eyes of our oppressed people. He committed no crime save to oppose the dictatorship. As a sworn enemy of the dictatorship, he could not subject himself to medical treatment in the hands of his captors. On the other hand, Erap is no hero and in fact he stands accused of plunder, a most heinous crime. Moreover, just like in his eye surgery, his claim that his knee surgery can only be done in the United States is unfounded. No sugarcoating will mask what this latest ploy of Erap really is—another attempt to thwart justice, perhaps permanently, via the exile route. Just like the 30 push-ups for staging a coup. How grotesque!

Rest assured there will be hell to pay for this.

—TERESITA D. BALTAZAR, Konsyensyang Pilipino, 265-C Katipunan Ave., Loyola Heights, Quezon City

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Israel mounts huge revenge strikes

GAZA—Israeli warships fired at Palestinian security compounds along the Gaza Strip coastline and tanks rumbled into areas in southern and eastern Gaza on Thursday in a three-pronged night-time assault.

For a second day in a row, Israel helicopters launched missiles at Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's West Bank headquarters, missing the Palestinian leader who aides said was in his office at the time but was unscathed.

A defiant Arafat said after the attack, which he described as "Israeli rudeness:" This is an attempt to make the Palestinian people and its leadership kneel, but they don't know that this people and their leadership are the mighty people."

The missile strike signaled the depths of Israeli fury after Palestinians killed six soldiers in a West Bank ambush on Tuesday, the latest in a wave of heightened attacks on Israelis which included a suicide bombing that killed two teenagers.

In the Gaza Strip, Palestinian doctors said five people, one a gunman, another a 37-year-old civilian and the rest not yet identified, had been killed and around 40 people wounded in the Israeli raids, which began shortly after midnight.

After the raids ended, an Israeli warplane fired three missiles at a Palestinian security building in Khan Younis, southern Gaza, Palestinian officials said.

The attacks were part of a stepped-up response by Israel's government which ordered more ferocious and varied retaliatory strikes against the Palestinians on Wednesday.

Since the fierce Israeli sea, air and land strikes began, 21 Palestinians have been killed.

The Israeli bombardments of Palestinian security installations were among the heaviest since an uprising against occupation began in September 2000. The violence has raised international concern the conflict could spiral out of control.

The United States put most of the blame for the spiraling violence on Arafat, who it said had "not yet taken adequate action." But the state department also said the Israeli air strikes worked against the "objective of reducing the violence."

In New York, the Palestinians demanded late on Wednesday an urgent meeting of the UN Security Council to condemn Israeli bombardments.

Diplomats said they planned private consultations on Thursday on the request backed by Yaman, the current head of the Arab group at the United Nations, as well as Syria, the only Arab nation on the 15-member council.

The night silence along Gaza's Mediterranean coast was broken as naval gunships traded machinegun fire with Palestinian security compounds and 10 tanks rumbled into a southern Gaza refugee camp shortly after midnight.

Reuters

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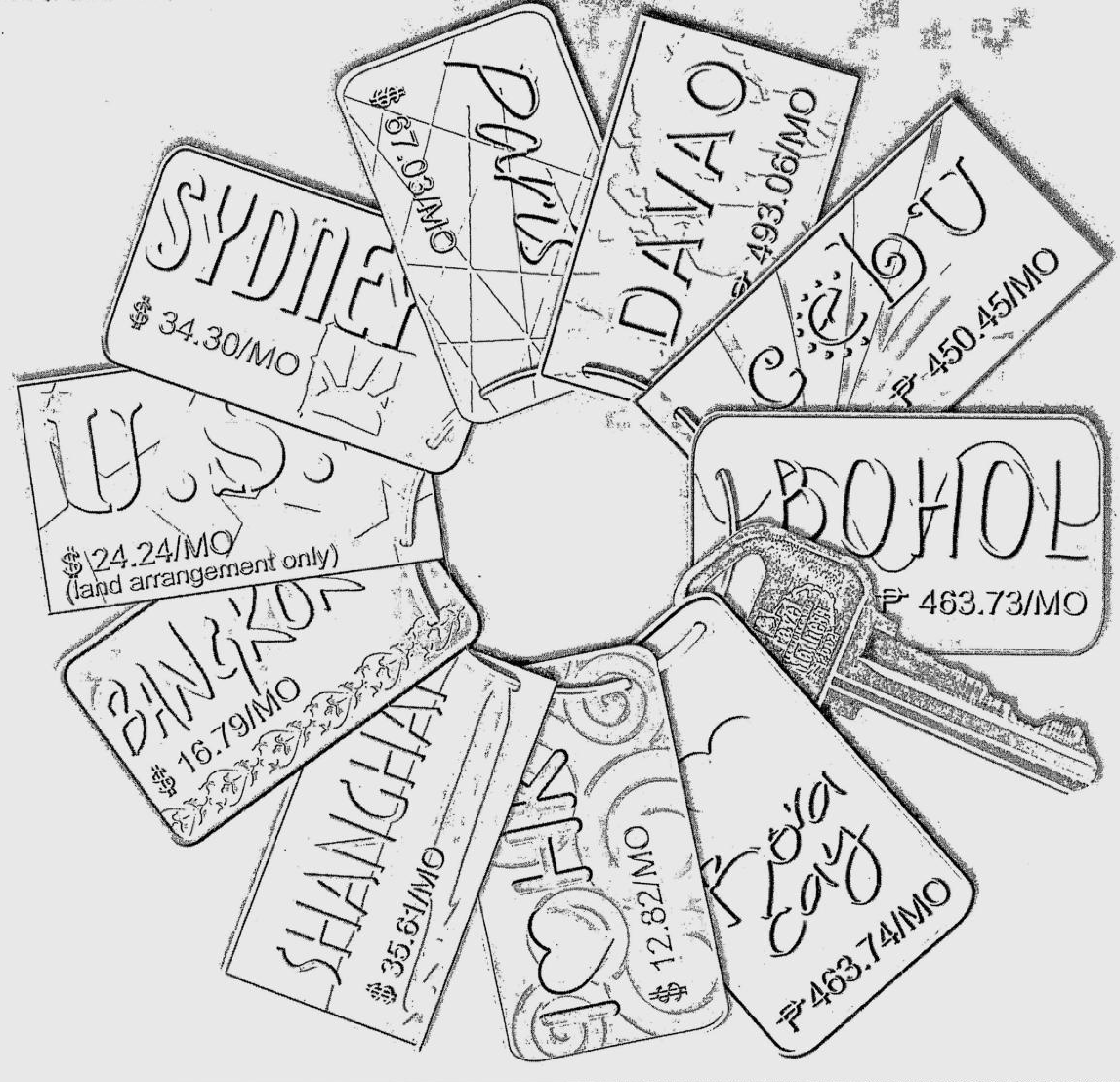

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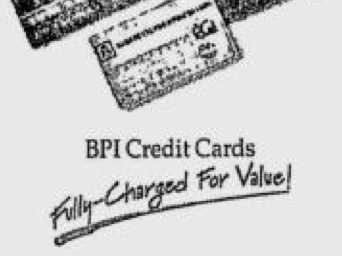

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Bush fails to conclude weapons deal with Jiang

BEIJING—US President George W. Bush returned to China on Thursday, urging it to curb the proliferation of weapons technology and stressing the right of the Chinese people to choose how they live.

But Bush, who arrived the capital Beijing exactly 30 years after a landmark visit by former President Richard Nixon ended over two decades of Sino-US enmity, failed to secure an early deal on the spread of weapons technology.

Chinese President Jiang Zemin, for his part, said the two countries would step up consultations on counter terrorism but he urged patience in the war on terrorism, which Bush launched after the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States.

Bush, visiting China for the second time in four months, is on the final leg of three-nation tour that has taken him to Japan and South Korea.

"My government hopes that China will strongly oppose the proliferation of missiles and other deadly technologies," Bush told a joint news conference after talks with Jiang on the first day of his visit.

The United States has accused China of transferring weapons technology to North Korea and Iran, nations Bush has labeled with Iraq an "axis of evil" seeking to develop chemical, biological and nuclear weapons.

Bush's National Security Adviser, Condoleeza Rice, said she did not expect a deal to be reached during Bush's current visit to China, which denies the US charges.

"The talks are getting a little bit better but it's going to take a while," Rice told reporters.

Bush invited Jiang and his heir apparent and vice president, Hu Jintao, to visit the United States—invitations that were both accepted.

Bush said there had been no change in Washington's policy toward Taiwan, which China claims as a renegade province, and he said the people of China should be free to choose how they live and worship.

BUSH (left) and Jiang in a joint news conference at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing Feb. 21. REUTERS

"China's future is for the Chinese people to decide, yet no nation is exempt from the demands of human dignity," he said.

"All the world's people, including the people of China, should be free to choose how they live, how they worship, and how they work."

Bush, arriving from South Korea where his expressed support for President Kim Dae-jung's "Sunshine policy" of reconciliation with North Korea, said the United States was willing to meet the government of the North's leader, Kim Jong-il.

He asked Jiang to convey that message.

Masking sharp differences on proliferation, Taiwan, human rights and missile defense, Beijing and Washington have stressed that bilateral ties are on the mend since China declared its support for the US-led war on terrorism.

China is deeply worried about US arms sales to Taiwan and the US military presence in Central Asia, but is more anxious to smooth ties with its second biggest trading partner and a key source of investment in the sensitive run-up to a leadership handover this autumn. *Reuters*

Afghan FM claims no plot in aviation minister's slay

KABUL—Gunmen opened fire on a British patrol in the Afghan capital and the British returned fire, a peacekeepers' spokesperson said Thursday—the second such incident in little more than a week and another reminder of Afghanistan's fragile peace.

There were no immediate reports of casualties on either side as a result of the brief exchange of gunfire Wednesday night, said Jonathan Turner, a spokesperson for the British-led peacekeeping force.

Turner said the gunfire started at 8:30 Wednesday night as British paratroopers were getting out of their vehicles for a patrol in west Kabul.

"They had just stopped their vehicles when they were fired upon," he said. "They returned fire as did an Afghan patrol in the area."

Turner said Afghan police were in the area as part of a separate patrol.

No deaths or injuries were reported, Turner said, "but we are closely examining the area."

"The follow-up operation is continuing," he added.

Last Saturday, members of the same Parachute Regiment opened fire on an Afghan car that witnesses say was carrying a pregnant woman. The peacekeepers said they heard gunfire and fired in response. Afghan witnesses say the shooting, which left a man dead, was unprovoked.

The two British paratroopers who opened fire were sent back to Britain earlier this week as an Afghan and British investigation into the shooting continued.

Britain leads the 4,500-member international force and has the largest contingent of peacekeepers.

Meanwhile, Afghanistan's foreign minister on Wednesday publicly disputed Prime Minister Hamid Karzai's claim that high-ranking conspirators within his own government assassinated the aviation minister.

Karzai could not be reached for comment. But a Cabinet minister close to Karzai disputed Foreign Minister Abdullah's claim that Aviation Minister Abdul Rahman was killed by a crowd of pilgrims angry over flight delays.

The apparent conflict raised questions about the cohesion of the interim government formed to help unite Afghanistan after decades of war.

Abdullah, a former northern alliance member, told reporters that Rahman's death "was not a premeditated plot." He said police questioned dozens of witnesses, and had concluded that angry pilgrims anxious to get to Saudi Arabia for the haj pilgrimage killed Rahman.

Karzai had blamed the killing on a feud among members of his government. His allegation led to speculation about divisions within the government between Northern Alliance members who stayed to fight the Taliban and exiles who returned to join the interim administration.

Karzai has named three senior officials as suspects in Rahman's killing: Gen. Abdullah Jan Tawhidi, the deputy intelligence chief; Gen. Kalandar Beg, deputy of the technical office of the Defense Ministry; and a Justice Ministry official identified only as Halimas. The prime minister has demanded their extradition from Saudi Arabia. *AP*

Asean ministers pledge 'new era' in war against terrorism

PHUKET, Thailand—Southeast Asia announced plans on Thursday for tough new laws to crack down on terrorism and cooperate across borders to protect its citizens from international gangs.

Foreign ministers from the 10 Association of South East Asian Nations emerged from talks on the Thai resort island of Phuket pledging "a new era" in regional cooperation in a bid to end a growing perception of the region as a haven for militancy.

"This is a new era of Asean foreign ministers' cooperation.

It's the era of close cooperation on anti-terrorism," Thai Foreign Minister Surakiart Sathirathai told reporters.

"We are very concerned there is a lot of misunderstanding of Asean countries, on what we have done. But perhaps we haven't done enough PR."

Philippine Foreign Minister Teofisto Guingona said his country, Indonesia and Malaysia had drafted an extra-territoriality agreement to allow the arrest of suspected terrorists accused of violating each other's laws.

"It is in general, with Indonesia and Malaysia only (to) exchange information, intelligence and cooperation," he said.

"It is also to take positive steps to curb terrorism. A terrorist leader fleeing to one of our three countries can be detained in the country where he flees."

Surakiart said all 10 Asean members had acknowledged the importance of the agreement and that Thailand was planning to join later.

"We agreed in principle, so it is just a matter of looking at some of the wording so we will become the fourth country of the agreement," he said.

Asean, with its tiger cub economies, has been seen as a cornerstone of regional stability over the past two decades.

But that image crumbled during the 1997 to 1998 economic crisis and its focus was blurred by a rush to absorb communist Vietnam and Laos, military-ruled Burma and autocratic Cambodia.

Foreign investment in Asean has declined in recent years with investors wary of higher political risk in a region driven by religious and political tensions.

Ethnic and separatist strife in Indonesia, as well as kidnappings and insurrection by Muslim rebels in the Philippines, have tarred the whole region, analysts say.

Singapore and Malaysia have recently rounded up suspected Muslim militants, while some of the hijackers who carried out the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States are believed to have passed through Thailand and Malaysia last year. *Reuters*

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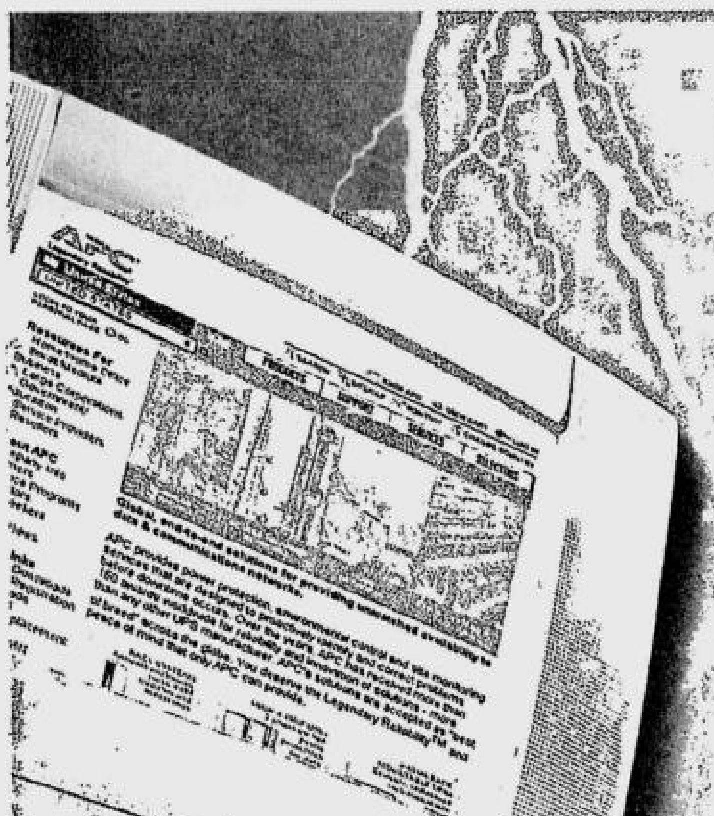

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TOP CHILDREN PHOTO

THE 19TH annual World Press Photo Children's Jury has awarded Feb. 20 Norwegian photographer Aleksander Nordahl of the daily Dagbladet for this color picture of three Afghan sisters taken in October. The 7-year-old girl smiles to the photographer while her older sisters hide behind a doorway. Teenage girls are not allowed to show themselves to men, their parents decide when they have to start wearing the burka.

Egypt mourns 370 deaths in rail fire

CAIRO—As Egypt marked the eve of Islam's biggest feast on Thursday, the country mourned the death of 370 citizens killed in the worst disaster in more than 150 years of Egyptian railway history.

Eid al-Adha, normally a joyous celebration, was shrouded in grief after Wednesday's tragedy, in which fire ripped through seven carriages of a crowded train carrying many Egyptians to their families for the holiday.

Investigations into the cause of the disaster are under way.

Most of the bodies pulled from the wreckage near al-Ayatt, about 70 km south of the capital, were charred beyond recognition. Some were trapped behind window-grilles or crowded near exits. Only a few passengers managed to jump from windows and doors to escape the flames and smoke.

Sources at hospitals, the local ambulance service and the public prosecutor's office—which is leading investigations into the incident—put the final death toll at 370.

Ahmed Abdulaziz, an undersecretary at the health ministry, said recovery work had ended just before sunset, adding that officials did not expect to find any more bodies.

Security sources said investigations into the accident and residual cleanup operations would resume on Thursday, even though work in the rest of Egypt will halt as scheduled for the several-day holiday.

The sources said authorities would probe whether sufficient safety precautions were in place.

Initial investigations showed the fire began when a passenger tried to light a small gas stove. Egyptians often use portable stoves to brew their own tea and coffee on board. Once the fire broke out, the wind blowing through the open windows fanned the flames.

The public prosecutor's office told Mena that survivors and witnesses had also suggested an electrical short circuit might be to blame. *Reuters*

Colombia breaks off peace talks with rebs after plane hijack

BOGOTA, Colombia—Colombian President Andres Pastrana broke off three years of tortuous peace talks with Marxist FARC rebels on Wednesday, saying a guerrilla hijacking of an aircraft carrying 34 people hours earlier was the final straw.

A furious Pastrana said in a television address to the nation that he had ordered troops to retake control of a guerrilla-held demilitarized area at midnight Thursday.

"I have decided not to continue the peace process with the FARC," he said.

Pastrana, speaking just three hours ahead of his deadline, said he had given "all the relevant orders to the armed forces to retake the area."

"Today the glass of indignation spilled over," he said in a reference to the hijacking, which he described as "an international offense classified as terrorism."

Pastrana, who had dedicated his presidency to peace talks with the 17,000-member FARC, made his announcement hours after rebels hijacked a Dash commercial airliner, landed it on a rural highway and drove off with the senator toward the guerrilla enclave.

The government held the FARC responsible for the life of the opposition senator, Jorge Gechem, who is president of a Senate peace talks committee.

In a meticulously planned operation, the plane landed on a stretch of highway marked by a smoke column where four all-wheel-drive vehicles were waiting.

"There were 50 or 70 guerrillas waiting for us on the ground when we landed," one passenger told local television as he stood by the abandoned plane in a landscape dominated by distant mountains rising above tropical scrub.

To prevent pursuit, the escaping hijackers blew up a bridge behind them as they headed for the FARC enclave, the Army said.

The passengers and crew who were left behind described a rough landing but appeared to be in good shape.

Peace talks have already pulled back from the brink of collapse once this year, when Pastrana gave the guerrillas 48 hours to vacate the main towns of the demilitarized zone in January.

Gechem, a member of a prominent local political family, would be the fifth parliamentarian currently held by the country's largest rebel army, which has said it wants to swap them for jailed guerrillas. *Reuters*

EgyptAir crash stemmed from intentional human action, say US probers

WASHINGTON—US federal investigators have concluded the 1999 crash of EgyptAir Flight 990 off the US Atlantic coast happened as a result of intentional human action, sources close to the probe said Wednesday.

A report compiled by the investigators states the Boeing 767 crashed 100 km south of Nantucket Island "as a result of the relief first officer's flight control inputs," said the sources familiar with the document.

All 217 people on board died as a result of the crash.

The five presidential appointees who head the NTSB are reviewing the report, which will not become final until a majority of those members vote to accept it. Their votes are due next week.

At the time of the crash, the Cairo-bound plane was controlled by co-pilot Gamil El-Batouty, who according to on-board recording devices, uttered something resembling a prayer before sending the airliner toward the ocean.

That has led to speculations that Batouty could have been on a suicide mission and crashed the plane intentionally.

EgyptAir officials have vehemently rejected the allegations, saying Batouty was a well-balanced family man and an experienced pilot who could not have committed suicide.

But the sources said the investigators from the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) had found no evidence of a mechanical failure of the airplane "that would have caused or contributed to" a dive at the speed of sound that preceded the airplane's disintegration and crash.

According to the sources, the investigators argue in the report that Batouty was the only person in the cockpit when the Boeing went into a dive at about 1:50 a.m. on Oct. 31, 1999.

They argue that only Batouty could have pushed the airplane into the dive and cut both engines back to their idle settings.

His voice, as captured on the cockpit voice recorder, expressed no surprise or symptoms of stress at the start of the dive or during the half minute of recording that followed it, the investigators found.

When the captain returned to the cockpit shortly after the beginning of the dive and asked what was happening, Batouty replied in Arabic, "I rely on God," a phrase he repeated before and after that more than a dozen times, the sources said.

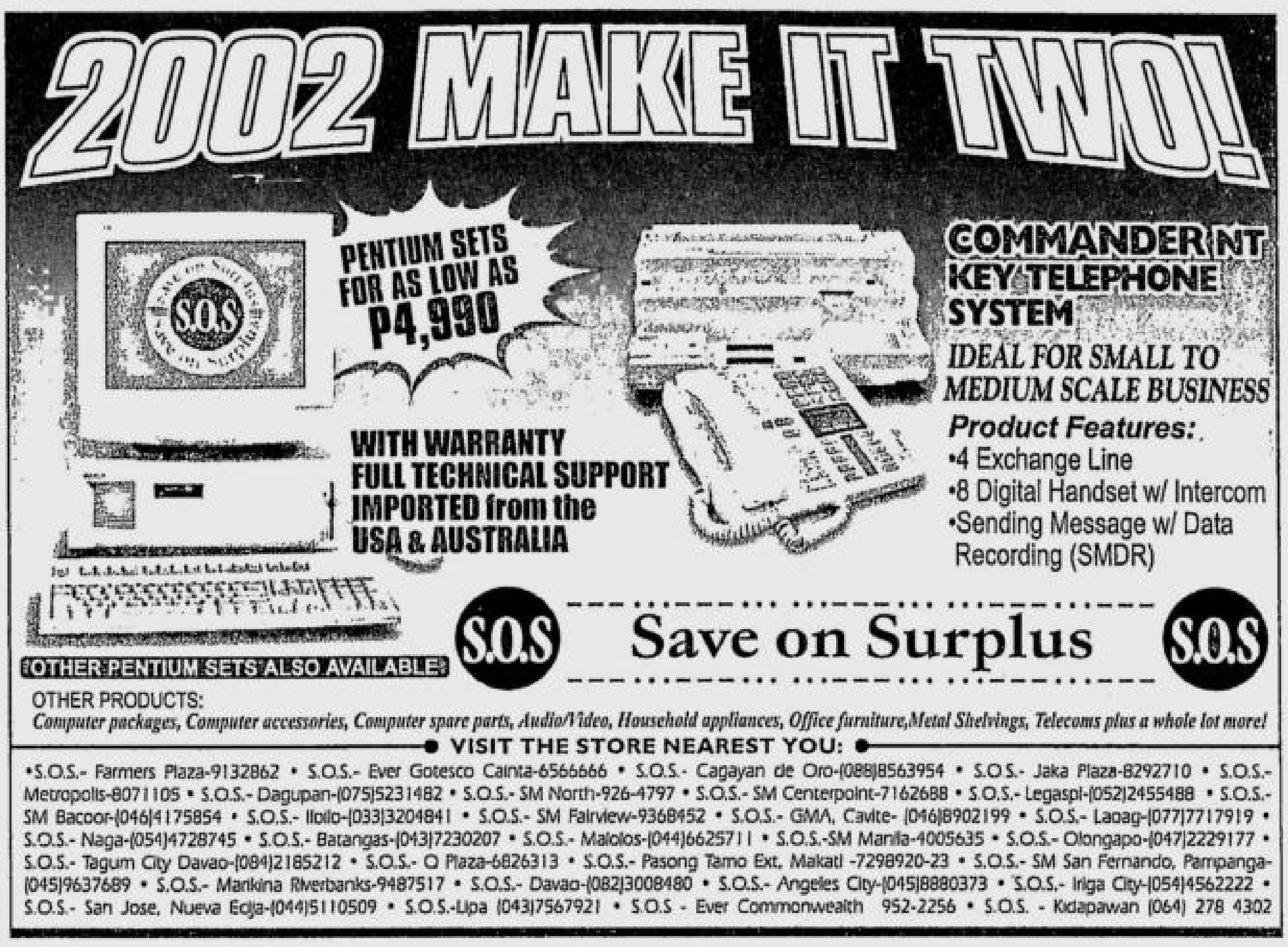
The investigators noted that within seconds, the plane's two elevators, which normally move in unison to control its up-and-down motion, moved in opposite directions.

The elevator on the captain's side moved up, as it would to pull the airplane out of the dive. The elevator on the right, or Batouty's side, moved down.

The investigators cite this elevator "split" as evidence that the pilots were fighting for control of the airplane, the sources said.

They said that no mechanical failure could explain the behavior of the elevators during and after the split. After the cockpit and flight data recorders stopped at about 1:50 a.m., radar data showed the Boeing 767 climbing back up to 7,500 meters, then breaking up.

Throughout the incident, the captain's actions "were consistent with an attempt to recover" from the dive, the investigators said in their report, while "the relief first officer's were not," according to the sources. *AFP*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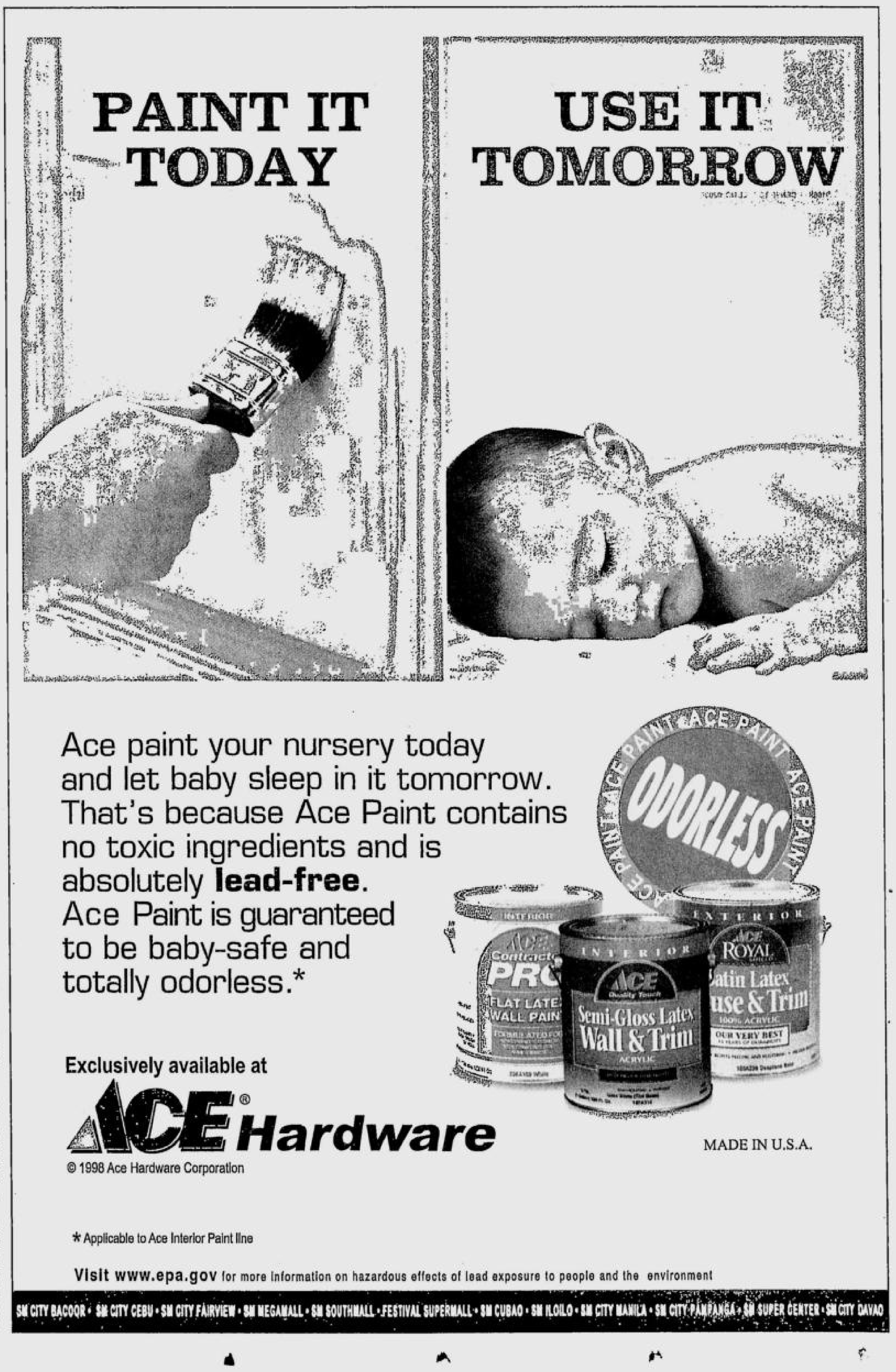
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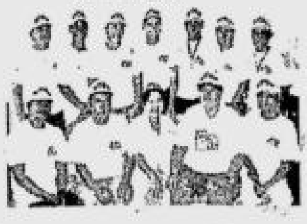
Project Coordinator: Rory Page
Layout Artist: Allan Calderon

At Roel's Food Corporation, good taste manifests itself in diverse ways. It is the basis of everything we do and every goal we strive for. Our obsession with quality is still the company's top priority. It is a commitment solidly backed by the following:

- Comprehensive programs for food safety
- Stringent quality control
- Nutrition dedication program
- State of the art production and transportation technologies
- Continuous improvement through research and innovation
- Dedication to the safety of our workers, communities and environment

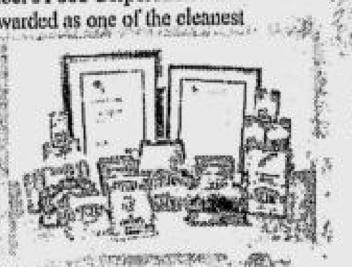
Founded over 17 years ago, Roel's Food Corporation started from virtually non-existent manufacturing base. Roel's impressive growth is a result of a mission to give total customer's satisfaction with quality products as our ultimate goal.

MANAGEMENT



Roel's Food Corporation management style and approach reflect a long-term vision. We build a durable presence in our market territories based on lasting and mutually beneficial relationships with all our customers, suppliers, and technology and service providers. We pride ourselves in upholding the very best in business values and ethics in all our dealings.

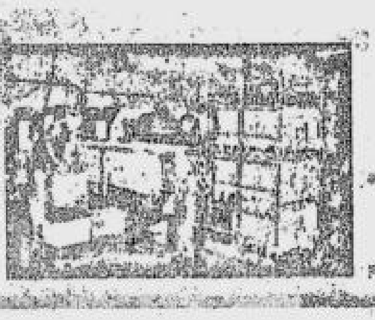
Roel's Food Corporation is a consistent recipient of awards coming from the different government agencies and non-government organization for the year 2001. Roel's Food Corporation was awarded as one of the cleanest manufacturing plants in the country. This prestigious award came from the combined team of the National Meat Inspection Commission, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Local Government Unit and the Department of Health.



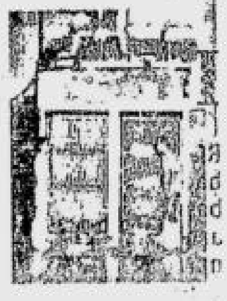
LOCATION

Our factory is spread over 40,000 square meters and in strategically located near the Angeles Exit of the North Expressway. By virtue of our presence within the key business centers, we are able to recognize speedy dispatch of our products giving rise to a very high level of service to our customers.

TECHNOLOGY



Roel's Food Corporation's production facilities are among the most modern and sophisticated in the country and possess a level of technological excellence comparable to prevailing global standards. We continuously invest in technologies that provide top quality products. We protect customer's interest by having state of the art, highly reliable processing equipment and methods in all our production facilities. We operate under highly accurate computer-based control system.



SERVICE

Service orientation is an intrinsic part of Roel's Food Corporation's relationship with our valued customers. We define the service element to include assistance and guidance that our customers may need to derive maximum satisfaction. With this broad definition as our guiding principle, we seek to introduce the service factor at every stage of our interaction with our customers. Our 400-strong workforce ensures that no customer's need remains unattended for any longer than absolutely unavoidable.

REAL RICH TASTE ONLY FROM ROEL'S

Messages

Warmest greetings to the management and staff of Roel's Food Corporation on the occasion of your 17th Anniversary.

We at the Department of Agriculture commend your company in providing consumers quality food products and contributing in the sustained development of the country's meat processing industry.

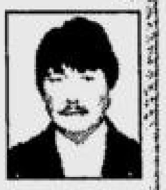
Through the years, you have successfully pursued the company's objectives by implementing your six-point program: food safety; quality control; nutrition dedication program; modern production and transportation technologies; continuous research and innovation; and safety program for your 400-man workforce, host communities and the environment.

We hope for your company's continued viability.

Congratulations and more power!

Mabuhay!

Leonardo Q. Montemayor
LEONARDO Q. MONTEMAYOR
Secretary, Department of Agriculture



Roel's Food Corporation, a leading meat processing institution in the province, stands out as model of Kapampangan industry, creativity, and culinary skill in food production.

I greet its founders and owners for their pioneering vision, technical expertise, and management abilities in developing this former home-grown enterprise into one of the biggest concerns of its kind in Region 3 and throughout the country.

Your products have exemplified Pampanga's stringent and high standards in food processing, showcased a people's creative talent, and has put the province to its premier position among progressive communities in the country.

Congratulations to President and CEO Romulo Pecson for his leadership and foresight in this vital industry!

MANUEL M. LAPID
Governor

Roel's Food Corporation – Pampango symbol

When a local food manufacturing enterprise has come to its 17th year of operation – surviving a stiff competition from food firm giants like SMC, RFC, or Commonwealth foods – there is good reason to rejoice.

Actually a small home food processing venture based in Angeles City is the mid 80's, the scion of the Pecson family that started the modest ham-curing and sausage making outfits has grown into a full-blown processing plant spread over four hectares in Dau, Mabalacat.

That it has developed into one of the largest food processing establishments in Central Luzon – in the Mabalacat, Angeles setting at that–speaks positively of the peace and order condition in that town, with no molestation from dissident elements and extortion syndicates.

The progress of Angeles and Mabalacat reflects the state of stability and peace in the area. While these communities are considered the home base of the Huks of old now the NPA possibly, the rebels saw to it that their activities did not disturb the socio-economic life of their tactical sanctuary. This is the key to the fast development of small, medium, and big businesses in the community.

One such enterprise that Mabalacat-Angeles is proud of is the Roel's Food Corporation. A low-key player in the food industry, it nevertheless holds a sizable market in processed food in Region 3, part of Metro Manila, and in the south including Puerto Princesa in Palawan.

A good product has its way of going into the kitchenof discerning household; quality and consistent good taste, in management or in the product spreads rapidly to housewives. Marketing techniques do the rest.

Romulo F. Pecson, the firm's president and chief executive officer identifies one secret to the growth of RFC — his obsession with quality.

How this enterprise managed to survive – and in many areas surpass the sales of giant food firms in the same line – is the question that the local businesses often asked.

Pecson prides in his program for sustained food safety. His technician and food experts stick to stringent quality control. including commitment to nutrition standards.

Departing from his father's limited access to modern food technology, Pecson has, through the years, initiated and implemented state of the art production and marketing techniques.

The RFC has a fleet of transportation units that deliver wholesale/retail orders on time.

With the solid trust of the consuming public as its source of strength. RFC is dedicated to the concept of Kapampangan creativity and industry, superior work ethics,' and a deep concern for others, Pecson said on the eve of the company's 17th anniversary.

One priority value that Pecson holds is respect for the environment, personnel welfare, and community concern.

Roel's Food Corporation may as well be one of the lead symbols of Pampanga's entrepreneurial spirit. The firm has thrived in a highly competitive field that only the strongest can survive, according to Gov. Manuel Lapid.

Lapid commends the RFC "as a model Kapampangan industry, creativity and skills in food production."

The governor last week greeted its founders and owners for their "pioneering vision, technical expertise, and management skills in developing this former home-based enterprise into one of the biggest concerns of its kind in Region 3."

The Metro Angeles Chamber of Commerce & Industry led by its incoming President Romero P. Yusi, extended greetings to RFC and lauded Pecson for keeping to stingent and high quality standards in food processing aside from helping the unemployment problem of the community.

Mabalacat Mayor Marino "Boking" Morales, a leading aspirant for the vice governorship of Pampanga in year 2004, hailed Roel's Food Corporation as an example of bold entrepreneurship, good management and a community developer.

As RFC observes its 17th year on February 22, Pres. & CEO Romulo Pecson continues to receive commendations and congratulations for his leadership, and vision in this vital industry.

The firm's success is an example of how people and institutions can progress rapidly and extensively if criminal elements do not harass them or play a coercive and discourging extortion game.

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Italy foils attack on US Embassy

ROME—Italian police said Wednesday they had foiled a planned attack on the US Embassy in Rome and arrested four Moroccans armed with a cyanide-based chemical and maps of the city's water supply network.

But Rome city officials played down the health risks posed by the substance, saying it was not toxic enough to have caused harm to city residents.

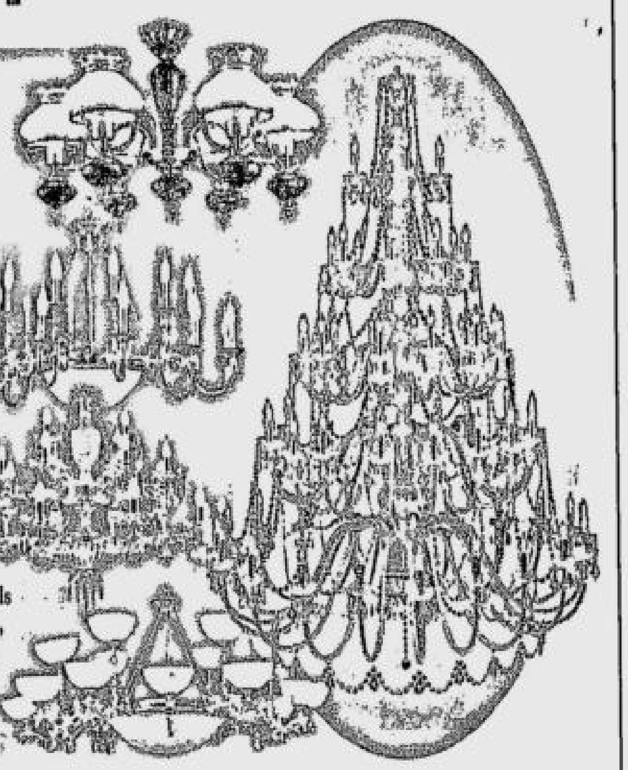
The arrests nonetheless appeared to confirm repeated warnings by the US State Department of the possibility of a new attack on US targets at home or abroad from members of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida organization.

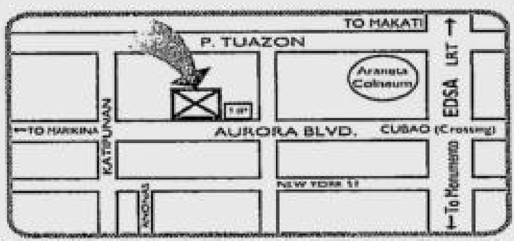
Italy's Justice Minister Roberto Castelli said the swoop demonstrated that Italy "is in the front line in the war against international terrorism. We are taking this battle forward with great determination."

However, police and prosecutors imposed a news black-out on the case as furious anti-terrorist magistrate Salvatore Vecchione criticized the leaking of information about the arrests to the media, saying it had done untold damage to the investigation.

In Washington, US state department spokesperson Richard Boucher hailed the arrests and said officials did not believe there was an immediate threat to the embassy or its employees.

AFP





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Ex-gov revives proposal for 'independent' Cebu

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Former Gov. Emilio 'Lito' Osmeña has revived his move to make the province ``independent" from the national government.

Osmeña said he had already discussed his proposal with President Macapagal-Arroyo but she had reservations about this.

But he said he would continue to pursue the "independent Cebu" movement and will meet again with the President on Feb. 27.

In fact, he said three Cebuano legislators with whom he had consulted—Rep. Raul del Mar (north district), Rep. Antonio Cuenco (south district) and Rep. Nerissa Soon-Ruiz (sixth district)—supported the idea.

Osmeña has repeatedly pushed for greater autonomy for local government units and, at one point, for a federal system of government. This time, he seemed to just want to concentrate on making Cebu independent from the central government.

Models

Osmeña could not elaborate on his independence movement, but judging from the examples he gave, his proposal is to make Cebu financially autonomous like Hong Kong or Macau.

Hong Kong, which was ruled for 100 years by the United Kingdom, and Macau, which used to be under Portugal, were able to keep their economic systems even after they reverted to China.

Osmeña also cited Singapore, which used to be part of Malaysia. After gaining independence, Singapore now even extends help to Malaysia, he said.

Osmeña said that if his plan pushes through, Cebu will have a political and economic system that is separate from the national government.

"Our goal is to find a system of government for Cebu where if we are given the full authority to chart our own future, our economic progress will be faster," Osmeña said in Cebuano.

Cebu is more progressive than Luzon and is a good taxpayer but all its income goes to the national government and very little gets back to the province in terms of projects, he said.

GMA reaction

Osmeña said he explained to the President the viability of granting independence to Cebu in a recent dinner in Malacañang.

But the President, he said, told him that the public might think that by pushing for an independent Cebu, he (Osmeña) might give an impression that he had lost faith in the capability of the administration to propel the country's economic growth.

The President suggested that he should consult the Cebuanos first and agreed to meet him again, the former governor said.

Osmeña said he explained to the President that the "problem" is not the administration but the existing system of government in the country.

Ex-PAF colonel breaks silence on toxic wastes

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

JUSTICE FOR ALL VICTIMS OF TOXIC CONTAMINATION IN CLARK & SUBIC!!
FAMILIES OF VICTIMS

THE FIGHT for toxic waste victims brings out parents and children together in a press conference last year.
FILE/EDWIN BACASMAS

LUBAO, Pampanga—His voice cracked but he never stammered. He did not grope for words--these streamed like clear water. All over his face were sadness and courage to make public what he has kept a secret in the last five years.

"I am sick," retired Air Force Col. Rodolfo Alfonso said, his hands clutching the rails of his metal walker.

The 73-year-old grandfather expected himself to be sick in a later age. But to be ill with neuropathy, a disease associated with diabetes or alcoholism (which he neither has) and to be in poor health when he was healthy only five years ago were, to him, "oddly strange."

A virus, according to Alfonso's American neurologist, had damaged his nerves, rendering his legs feeble.

"No amount of medicines can alleviate the pain," Alfonso said.

The walker has been a vital contraption to him. Without it, he cannot walk, even manage a step.

"I believe I got sick from drinking tap water in Clark. I suspect the water there is contaminated," said Alfonso, a former fighter pilot and aviation instructor, one of the best the Philippine Air Force has had.

Alfonso is the first retired Philippine military officer who has publicly admitted to contracting a serious ailment from pollution at the former Clark Air Base.

"I am not diabetic or alcoholic. So the virus, as a cause, was more accurate. The neurologist did not say, however, if it was the water. I suspect it is (the source)," he explained.

He said an expert in the family, his daughter Shiela who is a chemical engineer, told him the truth straight.

"She works as a waste management engineer in California. She is also involved in the cleanup of a military base in California. I asked her if the cause of my ailment was the contaminated water at Clark and my daughter replied, 'Most definitely,'" he said.

Clark water

Alfonso retired in early 1995 from his second career with the California Department of Motor Vehicles, which he served for 20 years. In August 1995, he returned to the country and joined the Clark Development Corp. as a traffic management consultant.

Then CDC president, retired Air Force Gen. Romeo David, who was Alfonso's student in the PAF Flying School, asked him to set up the traffic management system at Clark.

The 34,000-hectare base was being converted by the CDC into a special economic zone.

"I was in tip-top condition when I came in," he said.

An American citizen, Alfonso took annual health examinations before he left for his Clark stint.

He lived in one of the quarters behind the CDC offices.

"I treated myself as a Filipino. I lived the way they lived. I drank the tap water in the quarters," he recalled.

However, it puzzled Alfonso "why Americans who went to Clark drank bottled mineral water."

He did not give that American practice much thought, though.

In August 1996, he felt a numbing, excruciating pain in his left leg.

The pain started in his right leg and spread to the left leg. Relying merely on his health insurance, he went back to the US for tests and treatment. After a battery of tests, Alfonso was diagnosed with neuropathy.

"It was always at the back of my mind," he said of his suspicion of the contaminated water.

In 1997, he returned to work, moving on to another house near what is now the Holiday Inn. By then, he shifted to drinking bottled mineral water.

Contaminated sites

Still unknown to Alfonso, however, was that he lived near four sites confirmed by a government-sponsored study to be contaminated with various hazardous pollutants.

The housing area was south of the Wagner aviation site, west of the fuel system repair shop, north of the jet engine test office and east of the California bus line compound, a map derived from the Weston International's soil and water baseline study report showed.

CDC officials did not immediately make the findings public although the Weston study, which cost the Philippine government P7 million, was completed in August 1997, according to Myrla Baldonado, executive director of the People's Task Force for Bases Cleanup.

The four sites were among the 14 areas studied by Weston. Soil samples in all the 14 sites, according to the study, contained pollutants that exceeded US Environmental Protection Agency risk-based concentrations for ingestion.

As for Clark's water, the study said the general quality was "acceptable."

"But 21 of the 24 locations sampled had at least one pollutant that exceeded drinking water standards," Baldonado said, referring to the study's major findings.

Dieldren, a pesticide, was detected above drinking water standards at three wells near the golf course and the housing area, she noted.

Patrick Lynch and Dr. Emmanuel Jorge, both active in environmental compliance and restoration programs in the US and who made a technical review of the CDC-sponsored study, said Weston made a "premature recommendation" on the continued use of the drinking water supply.

They said that in the first place, "no details exist on the groundwater supply wells construction, though supply wells are believed to be highly vulnerable to contamination."

Without information on the well construction, they said it was not possible to know if the shallow or deeper aquifer, the principal source of water, was being evaluated.

Weston recommended that shallow groundwater sampling must be performed in 10 of 14 confirmed contaminated sites.

Without mentioning if it complied with Weston's advice, the CDC in 1999 announced that water was "safe" at Clark.

All CDC offices, however, continued to rely on bottled mineral or purified water.

Quiet agony

Alfonso, between 1996 and 1998, quietly suffered in pain. Neither did he raise the thought of toxic waste. But he harbored fear for his fellow workers at the CDC.

"Dabu (David's nickname) knew I was in pain. He sympathized. But I did not tell him about my suspicion of the contaminated water," he said.

Although his legs had become wobbly, he went with David touring sites believed laden with asbestos.

"I went about my usual work. I prepared Clark's traffic management handbook, gave training, gave tests," he said.

Healthy when he entered the CDC, Alfonso said he was a sick man when he left the corporation in 1998.

Interviewed in his house in Barangay San Isidro here on Tuesday night, he expressed no remorse.

He was scheduled to disclose his plight in a press conference at the National Press Club in Manila on Wednesday (Feb. 20).

"It took me long to talk about this because in the military you're called a squealer (if you bare matters that should remained within the circles). This was the reason I kept my silence, why I procrastinated this long," he told the INQUIRER.

A sense of concern for others and a perturbed conscience prompted Alfonso to air the suspicions he long kept to himself.

"Why shouldn't I? For the rest of my life I cannot bear this in my conscience. There are still toxic wastes there and many people are going to be affected," he explained. "Why should I not do something to stop this? No person is one person too much."

He clarified that he was not blaming anybody.

"I am just concerned. I don't want to see more toxic victims in my lifetime," he said.

He said he is the second military man to have been harmed by toxic waste.

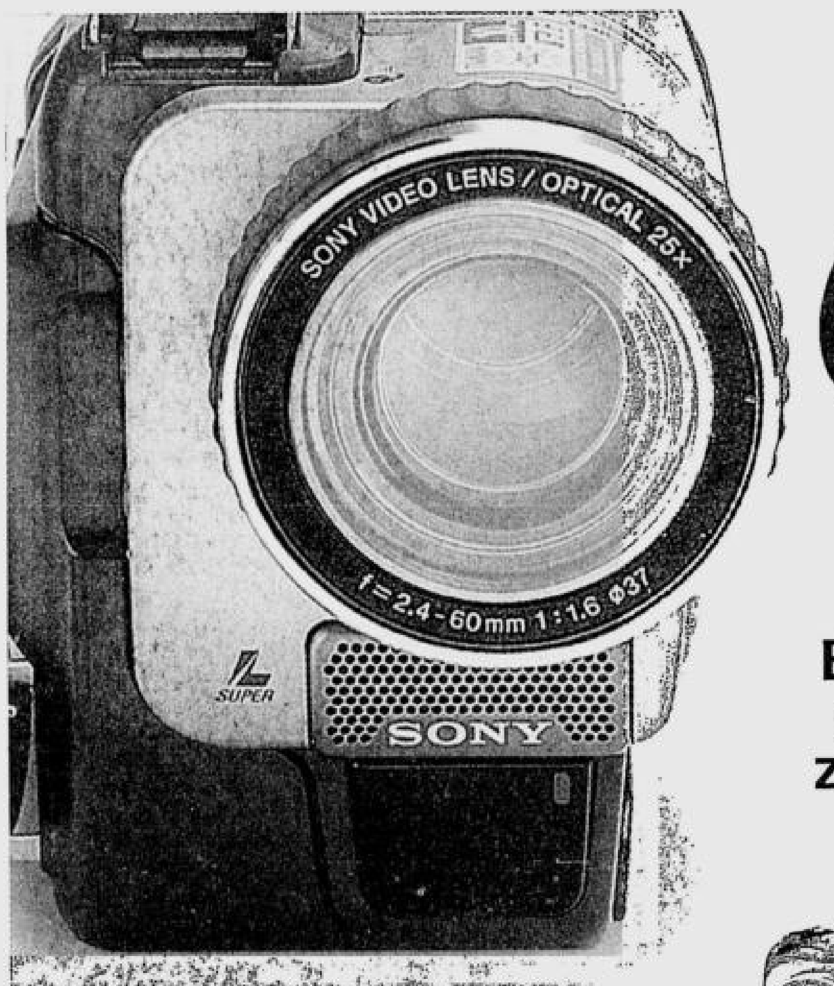
According to him, Air Force Lt. Gen. Jose de Leon, who lived and worked long at the Clark Air Base Command, also a confirmed contaminated site, had died of cancer.

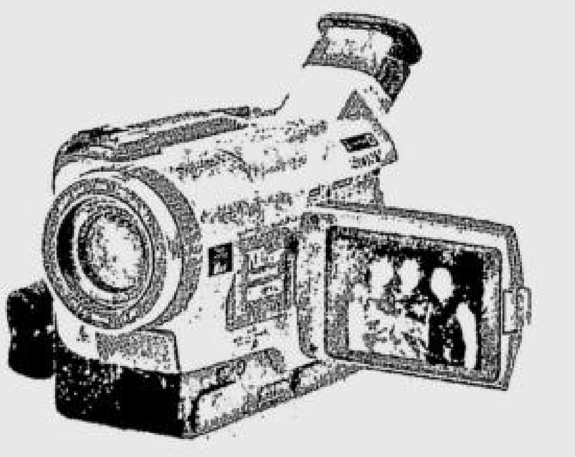
His being a US citizen notwithstanding, Alfonso said: "I think the US government is morally and legally responsible to do a cleanup."

He brushed off fears of criticisms, rebuke or physical threats. "What can they do to an old man like me?" he said.

"I am not after the money. My wife (Constancia) and I live on our pension. We live a simple life," he explained to erase doubts on what his motives could be for ending the silence.

"Cleaning up the base is the ultimate thing to do," Alfonso emphasized.





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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern section of Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Hi31° Lo 20°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Hi 23° Lo 12°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 24° Lo 18°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Hi 30° Lo 17°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Hi 30° Lo 19°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Hi 28° Lo 18°
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 28° Lo 24°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Hi 29° Lo 20°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	Hi 28° Lo 23°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	Hi 29° Lo 24°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	Hi 30° Lo 23°
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30° Lo 23°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy	Hi 34° Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 28° Lo 23°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30° Lo 23°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/02/22/02

ROUNDUP

Resort to reopen

THE DOS Palmas Resort will reopen its doors on March 8 in simple ceremonies to be led by Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon, Palawan Gov. Joel Reyes and Puerto Princesa Mayor Richard Socrates. In a statement, Dos Palmas said it has retouched its facilities and cottages and will offer new services, like a full-service spa. The resort's convention facilities, which could accommodate up to 200 people, have been equipped with modern sound and projection equipment. The resort said it hopes to rekindle tourism at least in Puerto Princesa and Palawan.

Cop in mayor's slay to yield

THE EX-POLICEMAN tagged as being behind the murder of Mayor Sixto Vergara of Lian, Batangas on Monday offered to yield to authorities, police officials said Wednesday. Director Nestorio Gualberto, chief of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, said the suspect, Lorenzo Tolentino, sent surrender feelers to him through Supt. Maximo Malabanan, the CIDG chief in Southern Tagalog. Gualberto, however, said that he was dispatching operatives to track down Tolentino just the same, saying he doubted if the suspect would surrender soon to the police. *TJ Burgonio*

20 hurt in smash-up

CALAMBA CITY—About 20 passengers were injured, one critically, after a Manila-bound passenger bus lost its brakes and crashed into four other Manila-bound vehicles along this city's portion of the South Luzon Expressway on Monday. SPO4 Jacinto Dejan, Traffic Management Group investigator, said most of the victims were passengers of the St. Jude Transit bus that came from Bicol and was driven by Vicente Artiaga. The injured passengers were immediately brought for treatment to the St. Mark's Hospital here and most of them are already out of danger, Dejan said.

Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Army nabs 4 rebels

LEGAZPI CITY—Soldiers from the 21st Infantry Battalion captured four suspected New People's Army rebels in a safehouse in Barangay Salvacion, Sorsogon City on Tuesday. Maj. Jose Broso, Armed Forces Civil Relations Group Bicol head, identified the suspects as Armando Vidal alias Ka Ricky, Sonny Marbella alias Ka Spike, Norberto Botalon alias Ka Buddy, and Marianito Osorio. Broso said the four were part of a seven-man team headed by a certain Ka Maila, which was responsible for the burning of a Philtranco bus in Prieto Diaz, Sorsogon last December.

Tony Macasinag, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

524 pumps installed

NAGA CITY—The National Irrigation Administration has installed in Bicol 524 units of shallow tube wells (STWs) and surface water pumps (SWPs) costing about P58 million since 1996, benefiting more than 1,000 farmers. NIA Bicol manager Feliciano Berdin said the wells and pumps are expected to lessen the harmful effects of El Niño. Berdin said each well could irrigate three to five hectares of riceland. The pumps have already irrigated some 1,034 hectares of new areas. The NIA has also restored irrigation supply to 770 hectares.

Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Mt. Isarog trek

NAGA CITY—At least 80 students and nature lovers from the Ateneo de Naga University will climb Mt. Isarog on Saturday in line with the United Nations' declaration and the national government's celebration this year of the "International Year of the Mountains." Monica Rose Crisologo, AdeNU Hagahag Mountaineering Club Inc. president, said the project aims to rekindle stewardship among students and different groups working for Mt. Isarog's protection.

Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Cassava program pushed

DAET, Camarines Norte—The Camarines Norte provincial government will buy four pieces of processing machinery with mechanical dryers to be used in cassava production. Provincial agriculturist Rodolfo Salamero said the project costs P3.2 million, which would come from the 20 percent development fund of the province. Salamero announced the plan during the Life Outreach Program video presentation of "Cassava at mga Produkto Mula sa Rootcrops." Around 300 farmers are expected to avail of the agriculture department's "plant now pay later" scheme for planting materials.

Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Two rebs killed in clash

LUCENA CITY—Two suspected communist New People's Army rebels were killed in Barangay Mabini, Mulanay, Quezon, reports reaching the Southern Luzon Command (Solcom) at Camp Nakar here said. The victims were not immediately identified. Maj. Gerard Velez, Solcom spokesperson, said troops from the Bravo Company of the 1st Infantry Battalion led by one 2Lt. Baquiran, were on foot patrol when they chanced upon at least 15 armed communist guerrillas. After a 10-minute firefight, the NPA rebels escaped in different directions leaving behind their two dead companions and a shotgun.

Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

'AS BIG AS CATS'

Rat attacks in 18 towns alarm officials

By Villamor Visaya Jr.
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

ILAGAN, Isabela—Rats, some of these "as big as cats," have been attacking more than 6,000 hectares of rice and corn farms in 18 towns of Isabela since December, agriculture officials in the province said.

Provincial officials expressed fears that the number of ravaged farmlands is expected to rise as reports from the province's 35 towns and two cities start coming in.

Danilo Tumamao, provincial agricultural officer, said the outbreak started in late December 2001 and continued until this month. The rats have attacked crops in 4,532 hectares of rice farms and 1,548 hectares of cornfields in 18 towns.

Tumamao said the damage was observed to be "moderate" to "severe" among corn and rice crops that are nearing harvest.

Newly sown rice seeds and corn in reproductive stages incurred "slight" to "moderate" damages.

"Why was there an outbreak? There was a failure in monitoring. When the rat infestation was detected, the crops have already been damaged. Aside from that, farmers have no simultaneous rat baiting and killing activities," he said.

Officials of Cauayan City and Roxas town have launched "rat tail" contests among farmers to eliminate the field rats.

Cauayan City Mayor Caesar Dy and Roxas Mayor Benedict Calderon have set aside funds for the competition where farmers with the highest number of rat-tails submitted to the agriculture office and validated by technicians will be declared winners.

Tumamao said the rat outbreak was due to the high residual population of rats from the previous season, flooding and monsoon rains, lack of monitoring and abundance of food like rice and snails.

If left uncontrolled, Isabela's distinction as the premiere palay producer in Luzon would be in peril, Tumamao said.

Agricultural technicians have predicted that if the damage will be left uncontrolled, at least 86,000 hectares of rice plants and 59,672 hectares of corn plants in their reproductive stages will be lost.

"This will (translate) to at least P116.5 million in average loss by farmers if left uncontrolled. However, our campaign will significantly reduce the (effect of the) rat infestation and (we are confident) this can be sustained," Tumamao said.

Gumersindo Lasam, Department of Agriculture regional director, has urged Isabela officials to activate their task forces to stop rat infestation in their areas.

Last year, rats attacked at least 22,000 hectares of rice and corn farms that reduced the income of farmers by at least 50 percent.

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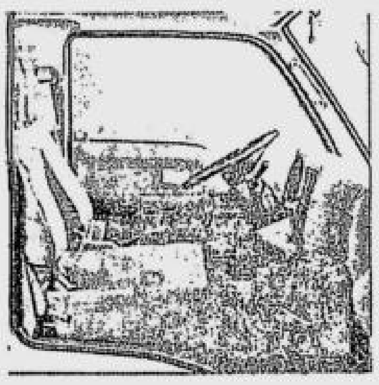

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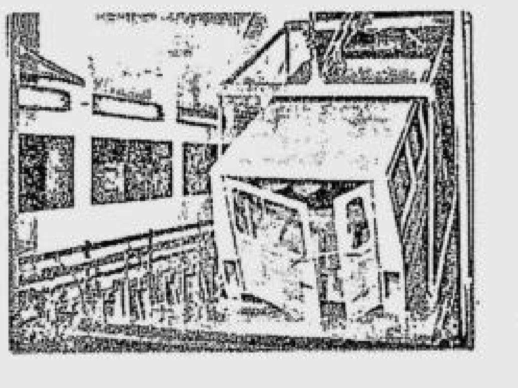

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'They can no longer hide'

From page A1

hard time tracking down the bandits who are so familiar with Basilan's rugged terrain.

"We stop operations once the sun sets down, and we have to wait for sunrise," Golez said.

Spy planes

The Washington Post also reported Thursday that US military aircraft had started surveillance flights over Basilan to gather intelligence on the bandits who are holding hostage an American missionary couple and a Filipino nurse.

Citing a senior US defense official, the newspaper reported that the previously undisclosed flights were meant to complement the US Special Forces troops on the ground.

About 160 US Special Forces troops are already in the country for the Balikatan war games aimed at wiping out the Abu Sayyaf bandits linked to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terrorist network.

The senior defense official told the Post that the information gathered by the spy planes would allow the better trained and equipped Filipino troops "to jolt" the bandits by April at the earliest.

Images and signals gained from the air would be combined with ground patrols to produce better intelligence, the senior defense official was quoted as saying.

The intelligence could be used "to create a predictive pattern about where these people (bandits) are likely to go, as opposed to getting a sighting report and going out and chasing them," he said.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told the Post that military authorities were still "sorting out" what types of surveillance aircraft to deploy.

"We're still looking at various sensors on various platforms," the official said.

The Post said the intelligence flights, being made by Navy and Air Force aircraft, were still in the early stages.

The newspaper said the defense official indicated that the operation was using aircraft based in Okinawa and elsewhere in Asia.

Other officials said it was possible the Philippines might allow the US surveillance aircraft to land at air bases either in Zamboanga City or Cebu City. ***With reports from AFP and Reuters***

Video 'berdugo' surfaces: I was forced to do it

From page A1

Sayyaf captives. He said his fellow captive had lost his mind because of the incident.

But Jun later told the Inquirer that the GMA-7 reporter could have misunderstood him, as he could only understand Chavacano and not Tagalog, the language used by the reporter.

"I'm disturbed because my relatives saw me on TV that I was the one who beheaded the soldier and that I was an Abu Sayyaf bandit. Those are not true," he said in Chavacano.

But he admitted that the Abu Sayyaf had captured him.

He recounted that on Nov. 19, 1994 he and four other men went to Barangay Tablon in Sumisip town to survey a property upon the instructions of a certain Arturo Ortesido.

Jun recalled that while he, Jesus Bonifacio, Nelson Abellana, Danny Dabat and Jun Davines were setting up their surveying equipment, a group of armed men kidnapped them and brought them to Abu Sayyaf leader Abdurajak Abubakar Janjalani.

They were freed in Patikul, Sulu on the first week of March 1995.

Nightmare

"It was a nightmare," Fred said of his captivity. His hands were shaking as he recalled his time with the bandits.

Jun said his life became miserable after the video footage of the beheading was shown on national television. He said the airing of his interview with the GMA-7 on Wednesday night added more to his misery.

"I lost my job as laborer because I fear the military," Jun said.

But Press Undersecretary Roberto Capco said the showing of the beheadings would serve as "closure" to the former hostage who claimed he was forced to decapitate his fellow captives.

"Regardless of who actually did it, only shows the brutality of the Abu Sayyaf," Capco said.

A female relative of one of the two former hostages questioned why the government decided to show the footage in public.

She said her kin, who had already reported his ordeal to the military, was again placed in danger after the video footage was shown in public. She noted that the former hostages had been living in peace before the footage was sown.

Compassion

An official of the Department of Social Welfare and Development said the man caught on videotape beheading an Abu Sayyaf captive should get compassion instead of blame and contempt.

DSWD Undersecretary Lourdes Balanon said the man who came forward in Basilan to admit that the bandits forced him to behead a soldier needed professional psychological help.

"We should not insist that it was his fault. His guilty feelings are being magnified because of the attention he's getting, especially now that everyone saw what happened," Balanon said.

"A social worker might not even be enough to help him. He needs professional help especially after he realized the implications of what he did. If before he kept it, it is out now," Balanon said.

She said the Abu Sayyaf did not only use hostages to do their dirty work. The DSWD has in its custody seven boys, aged 15, whom the Abu Sayyaf had used as "errand boys" to go to the towns of Basilan to get food or medicines.

The boys, who are now in Zamboanga City, escaped from the bandits last month.

Military officials said the man who confessed to beheading a soldier should be investigated by the courts to determine if he was liable for his acts.

Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu told defense reporters that the man's admission was unprecedented.

"I have not encountered such thing (a hostage beheading others). I will leave it to our legal experts to determine whether he is liable," Cimatu said in a telephone interview, adding that he was having the story double-checked.

The chief of the Army's 103rd Brigade based in Basilan echoed his superior's view. "The court will determine his liability," Col. Alexander Aleo of the 103rd Brigade said.

Gen. Diomedio Villanueva, Armed Forces chief of staff, said they would answer the issue after they talked to the former hostage.

Villanueva maintained that the Abu Sayyaf, not the MILF, staged the beheadings.

Opposition legislators said it was the same footage shown by then President Joseph Estrada to Catholic bishops in 2000. Estrada had said that he was with then AFP chief Gen. Angelo Reyes when the footage was shown. Estrada had also said the beheadings were done by the MILF.

"Those are speculations and they will remain speculations. But as far as the AFP is concerned, Abu Sayyaf members were responsible for the beheading of their captives," Villanueva said.

Asked to comment on Estrada's claim, the camp of Reyes chose to remain silent. Contacted latter, the press relations officer of Reyes, Ross Manlangit, said that they were still reviewing the tape and that they might come out with a statement today.

Estrada yesterday confirmed that the video footage Malacañang had released was those of MILF members beheading soldiers.

Estrada said the video was among those seized by the military when it overran MILF camps when he was President.

Vidal, Quevedo

He said he had shown the video to Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal and Bishop Orlando Quevedo, head of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines when they were sent to him by Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin to ask him to declare a ceasefire with the MILF.

Estrada said the ceasefire with the MILF was one of Sin's three requests, all of which he turned down. Estrada said Sin, through Vidal and Quevedo, had earlier asked him to reject the Visiting Forces Agreement and to drop the government's family planning program.

Estrada said Vidal and Quevedo were sent to him by Sin after he ordered an all-out war against the MILF. He said that when they sat down, the two prelates lectured him about the need to have a ceasefire with the MILF as "father of the nation."

Estrada said he let his guests talk and when they were done, he asked his aides to show the video.

Estrada said Reyes, then AFP chief of staff, and then Defense Secretary Orlando Mercado were present during the showing of the video to the bishops.

Estrada said the video showed an MILF member ordering a soldier, who was on his knees, to pray. "Pray, pray!" he recalled the words on the video.

He said the soldier started praying the Lord's Prayer and as he was doing so, an MILF member chopped off his head from behind.

"They were crestfallen. They could not speak," Estrada said of the reaction of the bishops. Estrada said he then explained why he stopped negotiating with the MILF.

"I told them that I followed the policy of my predecessor for eight months. But they (MILF) continued to build their camps and commit these atrocities," Estrada said.

Estrada said he told the bishops that as father of the nation, he also had a duty to protect innocent civilians.

Noli, Robin

A similar footage was shown to Sen. Noli de Castro a few years ago when he was still with ABS-CBN.

De Castro said an Abu Sayyaf member showed him the video in Basilan.

He said he was then with movie actor Robin Padilla negotiating for the release of teachers and children abducted by the bandits from a Basilan elementary school.

They were taken to the main Abu Sayyaf camp in Puno Mahaji for the negotiation in May 2000.

De Castro said he and Padilla had initially negotiated for the delivery of rice and other foodstuff so that the hostages could be properly fed.

"And it was while we were waiting for the delivery truck that an Abu Sayyaf member approached us," he said.

The man, who had a handycam, showed De Castro and Padilla footage of a young man beheading a man clad in civilian clothes.

The footage ended with the killer showing off the decapitated head right on his palms. "It turned out that the one who beheaded the victim was the one showing us the video footage," De Castro said.

De Castro said Padilla was shown another footage of a beheading incident, but this time of a soldier who had his hands tied behind him.

"The Abu Sayyaf offered the tape to me and wanted it shown on television. But I told him that the footage was too gruesome and that the station would not allow that it be shown," De Castro said.

Education Secretary Raul Roco said President Macapagal-Arroyo got "bad advice" in her decision to make public a video of alleged Abu Sayyaf bandits beheading captured soldiers.

Roco suggested that Malacañang just turn to other creative ways of showing the Filipino soldiers' sacrifice and nobility.

"The leadership of the military is giving the President bad advice and is not being faithful to the troops," he said.

Roco described as "propaganda" the public showing of the controversial video footage. "They do not build on truth. They build on fallacies," he said. ***With a report from Carlito Pablo and Donna S. Cueto***

Millions of dollars in aid for RP after anti-terror war

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Tens of millions of dollars in foreign aid should flow into Mindanao once a US anti-terror campaign there winds down, officials yesterday said.

Washington will release $20.2 million for development in the poverty-stricken Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) this year with plans to dramatically increase the funding subsequently, a US Embassy official said.

The World Bank is weighing in with about $35 million in development assistance over the next five years.

But Richard Anson, the World Bank's senior rural development specialist for East Asia and the Pacific, said help would arrive only once law and order was restored on the country's poorest and most violence-prone region.

Anson flew to Mindanao, taking pains to delink his mission with those of elite US Special Forces troops involved in the Balikatan 02-1 military training exercise aimed at crushing the Abu Sayyaf bandits in Basilan.

Anson said that aid requirements for the five provinces within the ARMM, including Basilan, "could easily run to maybe $500 million."

US Embassy Charge d'Affaires Robert Fitts said Washington was "committed to substantially increase" economic assistance to Mindanao, side by side with "robust" military cooperation.

But while 60 percent of US economic aid is now earmarked for Mindanao—and more than half to the ARMM provinces—"that's not going to revolutionize the economy overnight," he said last week.

Four in 10 Filipinos now live on less than P40 a day, including many of the country's 3.6 million Muslims.

President Macapagal-Arroyo earlier said economic development would help break what she described as the mutually reinforcing tie-up of poverty and terrorism.

Marievic Montano, an Ateneo de Zamboanga University professor, said Muslims and other minorities were "pushed to the peripheries, geographically and economically," by Spain's colonial government in the 16th to the 19th centuries, and the United States early in the 20th century.

Amid the second coming of American troops, Ms Macapagal is taking steps not to further alienate Muslims.

Anson said Thursday that the World Bank viewed its aid as "playing a catalyst role" in solving the problem in Mindanao, but cautioned that "the roots of the Mindanao conflict are multi-faceted."

Anson also said that the military campaign against the Abu Sayyaf, as well as peace negotiations with the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front could affect aid disbursement.

"There has to be a minimum level of peace and order in order to provide development assistance," he said.

The World Bank and the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries channeled $20 million in aid to a regional fund disbursement agency after Manila signed a peace treaty with the Moro National Liberation Front in 1996.

AFP

New US envoy . . .

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said," he added.

Ricciardone was at the Palace to present his credentials to the President.

He said he discussed the new US policy on kidnappings with Ms Macapagal, pointing out its "few nuances and clarifications."

The US government has adjusted its policy on kidnappings, promising to devote more energy than in the past to freeing all private American citizens who are abducted, the state department said in Washington on Wednesday.

The new policy also gives the government some flexibility to pay ransom in exceptional cases, a US official added. Such a case might arise when the government is confident the kidnappers can later be brought to justice.

Under the previous policy on kidnappings, in force since at least 1995, Washington gave special consideration to US officials held hostage and sometimes did not take as seriously those cases involving private US citizens.

"There are no longer any cases that are not of concern to us. We won't say, 'It just happened,'" said a US official.

Ricciardone refused to comment on the reported expansion of the al-Qaida terrorist network in Southeast Asia, including the Philippines.

Ricciardone, a former envoy to Turkey, replaced Thomas Hubbard, who ended his tour of duty two years ago.

He was also a former chief of the civilian observer unit of the multinational force operating in the Sinai Desert in Egypt and Israel. He served as political adviser to the commander of "Operation Provide Comfort" in Iraq.

The change in the US policy on hostages is the outcome of a review that began more than a year ago and is unrelated to the case of Daniel Pearl, the Wall Street Journal reporter kidnapped in Pakistan in January, US state department spokesperson Richard Boucher told a briefing.

"What may be a little bit different now is . . . that we will look at every kidnapping and hostage-taking to consider what the US government can do to gain the safe return of the individual, whether it's an official American or a private American . . . I would not say we would have examined every case to the extent to which it would be examined now," he said. ***With a report from Reuters***

GMA-7 stops airing video on beheadings

From page A1

would stop airing the video in its news programs so as "not to desensitize the public."

This decision was also announced in GMA-7's late-night news program "Frontpage" on Wednesday.

"We have been concerned with the (violent) nature of the footage right from the start. This is why we always use effects to blur the images every time we show it," De la Peña told the Inquirer.

She added that the GMA-7 news department had reassessed how it should treat the video and decided that it had shown it "so many times already."

"We are applying the same treatment made by the American networks to the footage of the Sept. 11 attacks. They stopped showing it after some time so as not to desensitize the public," she added.

But DJ Sta. Ana, director for news gathering of ABS-CBN, said the video released by Malacañang would still be run in the station's news programs.

This despite an earlier statement by ABS-CBN reporter Tony Velasquez that the video was the same one shown by then President Joseph Estrada to the Catholic bishops in 2000 to gain their support for his all-out war against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

Sta. Ana said there was no contradiction, as it was Malacañang and military officials, not ABS-CBN, who had been referring to the armed men shown in the video as Abu Sayyaf men.

Sta. Ana, however, assured that ABS-CBN would continue to blur the graphic portions of the video and that the footage would only be used "in the context of the story."

He said ABS-CBN had no plans of airing the video in full for ethical reasons.

Captive's ma says life a twin tragedy for Ediborah

From page A1

thing was being done to rescue her. "Not for a moment have I and our troops forgotten Ediborah," she said.

The President said her "utmost concern" for Yap and Martin and Gracia Burnham, both Americans, convinced her to approve the Balikatan 02-1 exercises despite the criticisms heaped against her.

Ediborah and four others were taken by the Abu Sayyaf from the Don Jose Torres Memorial Hospital here as the bandit group broke through a military cordon in June last year. The Burnhams were earlier abducted by the group from a resort island in Palawan.

Among Fatima's five children, only Ediborah, whom she fondly calls Indah, was not so lucky in life. "*Nakapag-asawa ng Abu* Sayyaf (She married an Abu Sayyaf)," she angrily says.

Fatima says she is a Muslim by birth and has five children from her late Christian husband Tomas Pamaran—Jonathan, David, Ediborah, Editha and Elvira.

She blames her daughter's misfortunes on her son-in-law, Jose Yap, who hails from Cebu.

"If he had been a responsible husband, my daughter would not have been abducted. Borah even gives him money for cigarettes. If the family had problems, he was nowhere. He could not provide his family, even one egg," Fatima says in the vernacular.

"That's why I call him Abu Sayyaf," she adds.

Cotabato miner

According to Ediborah's daughter Mary Anne, her father works as a miner somewhere in Cotabato. "*Naghuhukay ng ginto, pero wala namang nahuhukay* (He digs for gold, but has so far found nothing)."

Fatima says she spends all of Ediborah's meager salary of P1,800 a month as a hospital nurse to feed all her grandchildren.

Education of the children is out of the question at the moment, she adds.

Jonathan, the eldest, has moved to Zamboanga City to work for his Chinese-Filipino uncle, identified as Jimmy Yap.

"Sometimes, he gives P1,000, P2,000 to add to our food budget," Fatima says.

Mark Anthony or Hok-hok has dropped out of school and roves around town.

Mary Anne stowed away to Cebu City two weeks ago, bringing her clothes with her. "She said she would look for her father's relatives," according to Fatima.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development gave initial financial assistance to Mary Anne for her education, Fatima says, but her granddaughter used the money to buy clothes and treat her friends in Basilan and Zamboanga.

Bon-bon, the youngest, is with her and has been asking about Fatima. "*Kailan ako papasok sa* school? (When will I go to school?)" he asks.

If Ediborah had not been abducted, Bon-bon would have been in Grade 1 now.

Simple meal

When the Inquirer visited Fatima in their small house on Flores Street at noon yesterday, she was feeding Bon-bon with boiled rice, broiled dried fish (*galunggong* and tinapang tamban), with soy sauce.

The fish was all she can afford for Ediborah's children, she says, and she finds it very difficult at her age to look for work and earn money to send them to school.

She says the national government has stopped giving financial support to the family after Mary Anne spent the money for her education.

Fatima cried when asked about her hope for the return of her daughter. "It really hurts," she says, pointing to her heart.

"If I don't cry, I don't know, I might go crazy."

She says she hopes that the American troops in Basilan can help rescue Ediborah. She is willing to join the military operations, she says. "Even in combat, I will look for my daughter."

She says several military officers had visited her and informed her about the latest developments on the rescue mission.

Three months ago, an Army officer asked for her daughter's photograph and gave her assurance that she will be freed in due time. Her heart broke, she says, when she learned that nothing happened.

Appeal

The old woman appealed to the US government to remind its troops in Basilan to also consider her daughter in the operation, "that she be rescued alive."

"If the Burnhams are worried, so are we because we are poor and her children only depend on Indah. Her children need her," Fatima says.

In Manila, presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said the US media had "understandably" created the "misimpression" that the government was focused only on the Burnhams.

He pointed out that the military had rescued most of the Abu Sayyaf's Filipino hostages through relentless operations.

Ms Macapagal nonetheless ordered the military's Southern Command chief, Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu, to personally and regularly brief the Yap family about the rescue operations.

She also directed Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman to extend to the family, especially to Ediborah's four children, "all the help they need." ***With a report from Dona Pazzibugan***

SPORTS

Editor Al S. Mendoza ● Assistant Editor Edwin M. Villanueva

DONDON Hontiveros of Selecta-RP Team (right) tries to break loose from the double-teaming Alvin Teng and John Arigo of Alaska. ROMY HOMILLADA

Alaska trips Selecta-RP 5

GAMES TODAY: (Ynares Center)
4 p.m.—Coca-Cola vs San Miguel
6 p.m.—Hapee-RP Team vs Talk N Text

By June Navarro

ALASKA got a big lift from two unsung heroes in the final stretch as the Aces brought down the Selecta-RP Team, 56-52, in a highly physical match last night in the PBA Samsung Governors Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

Bryan Gahol and John Arigo made the crucial shots—a triple and a layup off a steal, respectively—as the Aces picked up their second win in a row.

The Aces now share the lead with Purefoods and Red Bull at 2-0, while Selecta-RP Team absorbed its first setback after a 64-59 victory over San Miguel Beer last week.

Gahol and Arigo's end-game heroics also preserved the excellent all-around performance of import Ron Riley, who finished with 26 points on top of 14 rebounds and five assists.

"Ron really stepped up big time for us. He's a one-man wrecking machine," said Alaska coach Tim Cone.

Cone also gave national team coach Jong Uichico a pat in the back after the Aces went through a tough and highly charged encounter in the first half.

"Well, I'm impressed. They (Selecta) made our heads spin in the first half. They pass and move the ball so well that if they keep this kind of chemistry the national team will go places," said Cone.

"My hat is off to Jong. At this stage, he's really doing an excellent job," he added.

With a lot of hustling and muscling in the first half, the Nationals made the Aces grope for form as they moved the ball with precision while putting the cuffs on Alaska's offensive threat.

Asi Taulava, Cris Calaguio, Poch Juinio and Dondon Hontiveros clicked as the Nationals built a 31-23 lead at the half.

Meanwhile, action shifts to the Ynares Center in Antipolo City today as Hapee-RP Team shoots for another victory against Talk N Text at 6 p.m.

The other game pits Coca-Cola against San Miguel Beer. The Tigers and the Beermen are seeking their first win in the conference.

Score

ALASKA 56—Riley 26, Gahol 10, Arigo 7, Dobbings 5, Santos 4, Noble 3, Lastimosa 1, Teng 0, Wallkvist 0.

SELECTA-RP 52—Taulava 15, Calaguio 13, Hontiveros 10, Espino 4, Juinio 4, Reavis 2, Fran 2, Racela 2, Jackson 0.

Quarters: 16-18, 23-31, 39-38, 56-52.

NBA RESULTS

Philadelphia 114, Golden State 107; L.A. Clippers 81, Miami 71; Detroit 97, Washington 90; Milwaukee 115, Houston 76; Charlotte 78, Toronto 77; Chicago 113, New York 109; Utah 110, Denver 99; Portland 90, Seattle 84. *AP*

Blu downs Montaña in Cebu

By Dennis Eroa

CEBU CITY—Blu Detergent Kings capped a remarkable week in style, outlasting Montaña Jewels, 63-57, to crown itself champion in the First CBF-PBL Challenge Cup Wednesday night at the New Cebu Coliseum here.

The determined Detergent Kings trailed in the early minutes but slowly gained the upper hand by mixing near-perfect ball movement with a man-zone defense which refused to crumble even when under seige.

Slotman Marlon Legaspi patrolled the lane with authority but it was the troika of Lou Gatumbato, Aries Dimaunahan and Jacques Gottenbos, which delivered the deadly blows to the Jewels, whose search for their first major title fell short.

"Give credit to the boys," said Blu mentor Leo Isaac. "They were together for less than two weeks yet they emerged champions." Isaac didn't join the traditional picture-taking reserved for the winning squad to give all the "focus" to his players.

The bemoustathed Isaac, however, led Blu to a short thanksgiving visit to the Sacred Heart Chapel Adoration room on D. Jakosalem Street on the way back to the league's official residence on Mango Avenue.

Blu last won a title two years ago in the PBL-sanctioned Athlete's Haven tilt in Baguio City.

Playing against his former team, Gottenbos sank two straight baskets, including a triple as the Detergent Kings turned a slim 54-53 lead to a six-point cushion, 59-53, 1:36 remaining.

BLU 63—Gatumbato 15, Legaspi 11, Calo 10, Dimaunahan 9, Gottenbos 7, Latoreno 6, Prior 3, Mendez 2, Dela Cuesta 0, Codamon 0.

MONTAÑA 57—David 13, Macapagal 13, Mesina 12, Kalaw 4, Misola 4, Alfad 4, Lim 2.

Quarters; 11-18, 24-27, 43-40, 63-57.

Spring vs Lhuillier tomorrow

GAMES TOMORROW: (USC gym)
4:00 p.m.—Lhuillier vs Spring
5:30 p.m.—Osaka vs RP Youth
6:00 p.m.—Pampanga vs Kwarta Padala

CEBU CITY–Many-time PBA best import Bobby Parks reinforces Spring Cooking Oil when it meets defending champion Lhuillier at 4 p.m. tomorrow (Saturday) at the start of the CBL (Cebu Basketball League) President's Cup at the USC gym here.

The other games pit Osaka Iridology against RP Youth at 5:30 and Pampanga Dragons against Kwarta Padala at 6 p.m. Parker is expected to give a big lift to the Spring Oil Masters co-owned by national shooting champion Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and Herbert de Jesus.

Also seeing action for coach Tito Palma's Spring squad are Carlo Espiritu, Joel Co, Mar Reyes, Allan de Castro, Mike Buendia, Ricky Ricafuente and Ramil Ferma. The reigning National Open champion Spring Oil Masters are gunning for their fourth title. They had also previously won the Danny Espiritu Cup and the Manila Mayor Lito Atienza Cup.

Spring Cooking Oil is also preparing for the Seaba (Southeast Asian Basketball Association) championship set here on March 10-14.

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PSC to pay P65-M debt 'little by little'

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE PHILIPPINE Sports Commission incurred debts amounting to P65 million since 1990, prompting newly installed PSC chair Eric Buhain to immediately enact a board policy to allocate at least P1 million for payments monthly.

The news came from Buhain himself during his first-ever media conference yesterday at the PSC building in Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

Buhain said the debts piled up during the past administrations and mostly consist of sports equipment for national athletes purchased from different suppliers here and abroad.

In fact, some P9 million worth of credit is about to mature at the end of March and the suppliers are asking to just make deductions from the monthly allotment the agency receives from the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.

But Buhain begged to just pay the debt "little by little" by earmarking P1 million every month. He said the PSC is likely to pay all its debt in two years' time and added that the other debts will have to be re-financed and restructured.

Nevertheless, Buhain refused to blame his predecessors and said that he found nothing suspicious about it, except that the PSC officials before him failed to make calculations of the agency's cash flow.

"I don't want to dwell on what happened before, I look at the future," said Buhain. "I don't think there's going to be any problem with this because the PSC will be able to pay all of our suppliers."

Buhain also reported that the PSC is going to spend P46 million for the Palarong Pambansa starting on May 12 in Naga City. He said the venue was the choice of both the PSC and Education Secretary Raul Roco, who hails from Bicol Province.

Palaro, canceled for the past two years due to financial constraints, will be held in Naga City instead of the reported Tubod, Lanao del Norte due to the worsening peace and order situation in Mindanao.

The PSC will also give more than P100 million to at least 340 sports achievers who qualify for the Sports Incentives Act or R.A. 9064 which will lavish cash incentives to those who brought honor to the country through sports.

Buhain also said he will call in all national sports association regarding a plan to hold the national open tournaments of all sports simultaneously in one venue, which will serve as the culmination of all mass-based sports development program.

BUHAIN

Aussie shocks Woods, 2 and 1

CARLSBAD, California —Top seed Tiger Woods suffered a shocking 2 and 1 loss to Australia's Peter O'Malley on Wednesday in the first round of the World Match Play at La Costa Resort and Spa.

Regarded as the world's best match play competitor, Woods received a rude awakening from the tournament's 64th seed, who closed out the match on the 17th hole.

O'Malley, ranked number 68 in the world, took control of the match early with a birdie at the par-five second hole.

However, after back-to-back bogeys on the fifth and sixth holes that put him behind, O'Malley made amends by stringing birdies together on the eighth and ninth holes and made the turn at 1-up.

Woods parred the first 12 holes before a bogey at the 13th when he missed a 10-foot par putt attempt and fell 2-down to the Australian.

After halving the 14th with pars, Woods' ball was inside O'Malley's on the 15th green, but it was O'Malley who converted from 15 feet to win the hole and go 3-up.

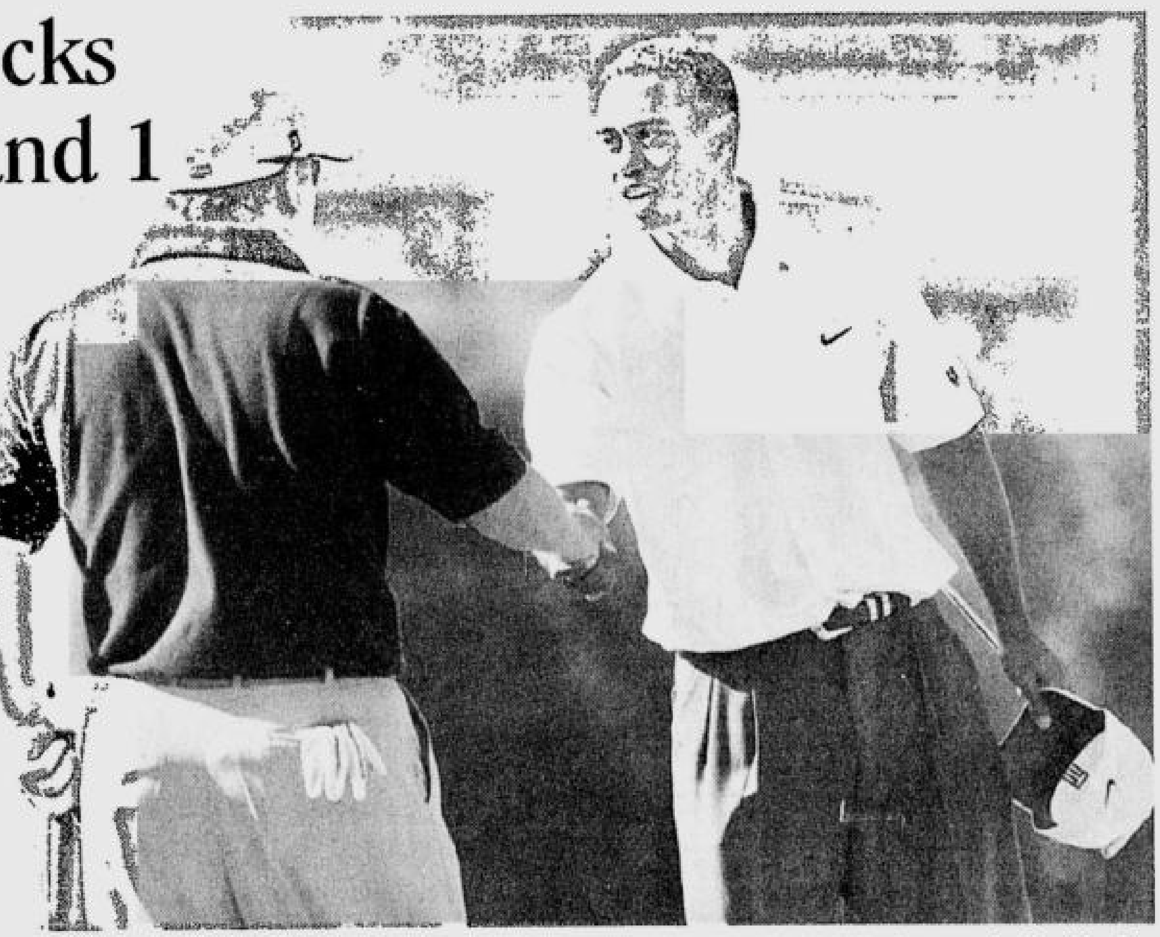
Woods birdied the 16th with a 25-foot putt to win the hole, but O'Malley drained another 15-footer at the 17th for birdie to close out Woods.

O'Malley now faces the winner of the Angel Caberra-Nick Price match in the second round.

Woods is not the only high seed facing an early elimination in the 64-player event as number 63 John Cook is 3-up against second seed Phil Mickelson through 15 holes.

Third seed David Duval also is getting a test but is 1-up against 62nd seed Kevin Sutherland after 13 holes.

Among the seeds in the top 10 advancing to the second round were Sergio Garcia of Spain, Ernie Els of South Africa, David Toms, Retief Goosen of South Africa, Davis Love III and Vijay Singh of Fiji. *Reuters*



WOODS (right) congratulates O'Malley after the latter upset him 2 and 1. O'Malley became the first No. 64 seed to win a match in the four-year history of the World Match Play Championship. AP

Pagunsan, Dizon still ahead

BANGKOK—Juvic Pagunsan made up for Marlon Dizon's struggling game with another solid effort as the Filipinos kept their share of the lead with Korea and the host country in the Thailand Amateur Open golf tournament at the Kiarti Thanee Country Club course here.

Pagunsan fired a three-under-par 69 that cushioned the impact of a 78 turned in by teammate Dizon in the second round of the multi-nation event where most of the region's big names expected to see action in the coming Asian Games are playing.

With their 283 aggregate for two days, the RP duo kept in pace with Korea but Thailand A, starring Prom Meesawat, made the big jump by joining them at the top.

The three countries are just a stroke ahead of Taiwan with Thailand B four strokes adrift at 287.

Meesawat, who lost his bid for the SEA Games gold medal last year in Malaysia to Pagunsan when he signed a wrong scorecard, exploded with a 66 to grab the individual lead with a 135 aggregate.

Pagunsan stayed in second in the individual derby with his 136 while first day leader Hye Dong Kim slid to third at 138. Dizon fell far behind at 145.

Pasay 4-cock derby starts tonight

THE PASAY Cockpit Cockers Association (PCCA) 4-cock derby gets under way at 7 tonight at the Pasay City Cockpit.

Sponsors of the 60-fight program are Sagupaan Super Feeds and Hammer Dewormer.

Hosted by Arnel Pimentel, Bobby Cabillon and Joey Lapid, the event will be PCCA's third offering in a series of five derbies.

The current frontrunners in the PCCA Cocker of the Year 2002 race are Tony Lasala (Rey San Luis entry, 7 points); Cito Manansala (CM Jackpot, 6); Daddy Siochi (CMS Tiger Ninja, 5.5) Dindo and Mon Torres (Aqui RPT Gem, 5); Arnel Pimentel (Creekside SPC, 5); Joel Fernando (JOF, 5); Joey Lapid (Saluyan, 5) and Madison Go (Gemguarian 168, 4.5)

The Cocker of the Year winner will receive a huge trophy and P100,000. Meanwhile, a major 4-cock derby is also slated on March 1 with Muroy Dolorico as host.

UP Vanguard golf at Sherwood today

THE ANNUAL UP Vanguard Invitational Golf Tournament reels off today, (Feb. 22) at the Jack Nicklaus-designed Sherwood Hills Golf Club at Trece Martirez

Lawyer Gilbert Reyes, senior partner of the Poblador, Bautista & Reyes Law Offices and UP Vanguard national president, said the annual tourney is expected to draw the attendance of some 80 leading figures in the military, business, information technology, medical and legal sectors.

Sherwood Hills Golf Club of the Fil-Estate Group, Eastern Telecommunications Philippines Inc., WordComm International PR Consultants and Josol Home Décor lead this year's list of tournament sponsors.

He said among those expected to attend are IBM Asia regional president Ramon Jocson, Ayala Group executive Mark Javier, Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez, Cagayan Governor Ed Lara, lawyer Sigfried Fortun, GMA-7 executive Dan de Padua, marketing guru Ernie Reyes and international public relations veteran Archie Inlong.

Also slated to take part in the affair are Quezon City regional trial court Judge Apolinario Bruselas Jr., retired AFP general Jose Magno, business finance executive Edwin Fernandez and Ayala Group executive Chito Oreta.

Reyes said the tournament would follow the System 36 format.

The tournament is a prelude to the March 9 general homecoming of the UP Vanguard, the national association of graduates of the ROTC Advanced Course of the state university.

Super karting slated

CARMONA, Cavite—Top karters, led by two-time champion Pepon Marave, start their title bids as the 2002 Shell Super Karting Series unfolds this weekend (Feb. 23-24) at the Carmona Circuit Philippines in Cavite.

Marave will try to achieve a historic third crown in this event organized by Carmona Circuit Philippines and sponsored by Shell, Bridgestone, Nova and Kart Plaza—a reason why this year's Formula-A race will be even more exciting.

"It will be a big feat but a hard thing to do," said Marave. "It will be hard focusing on both karting and formula races. Moreover, there are a lot of younger and equally talented karters out to wrest this year's crown aside from comebacking veterans out to stop me from achieving this feat," said Marave, who expects comebacking Mike Tuason as his toughest rival for the title.

Tuason, son of the late racing legend Arthur, was the first ever Filipino to win the Asian Karting Championship, which he incredibly achieved at age 16.

Among the other strong contenders are veterans Jess Garcia and Manny Sy.

SALT LAKE 2002
14

NORWAY VICTORY REUTERS

Norway's Ole Einar Bjoerndalen jubilates after crossing the finish line first as his team wins the gold medal in the men's 4 x 7.5 km biathlon relay at Soldier Hollow during the Salt Lake 2002 Olympic Winter Games on Wednesday. The Norwegian team won the gold in heavy snowfall, making it the fourth gold medal for Bjoerndalen in the Olympics.

SPORTSWATCH

RP cue artists lose in semis

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates—Alex Lely of the Netherlands edged Johnny Archer of the United States, 13-11, in the finals Wednesday of the First Fujairah International Billiard Tournament to win one kilogram of gold and the championship trophy in the 9-ball meet. Francisco "Django" Bustamante and Leonardo "Dodong" Andam of the Philippines both lost their semifinal matches—Bustamante 7-11 to Archer, and Andam 9-11 to Lely—and finished tied for third and fourth places. Archer received a half-kilo gold and trophy. Bustamante and Andam got 1/4 kilogram of gold and trophy each. Efren "Bata" Reyes, a special tournament guest, defeated Lely, 3-1, in an exhibition match at the close of the five-day event.

Norway on course for record haul

SALT LAKE CITY —Ten gold medals, and it's not over yet. Norway, the most successful Winter Olympic nation in history, is on course for a record gold-medal haul with four days left in the Salt Lake City Games. On Wednesday, Norway solidified its position atop the medal standings after Ole Einar Bjoerndalen anchored the biathlon team to victory in the men's 4x7.5-kilometer relay, capturing his fourth gold medal of these games. Norway now has 10 gold, six silver and two bronze medals. Germany is second at 9-15-7; the United States third at 8-9-8. Broadcasts from Salt Lake City enjoy record ratings on Norwegian television. More than 1.6 million viewers watched the gold-winning cross-country ski relay on Sunday - one of the highlights of the games for this Scandinavian nation of 4.5 million. That even beats the ratings for the Brazil-Norway soccer game in the 1998 World Cup. *AP*

Williams repeats over Kournikova

DUBAI—Venus Williams swept into the quarter-finals of the $585,000 WTA Dubai Open on Wednesday with a 6-2, 7-6 (7/3) defeat of Anna Kournikova. It was her second win in two weeks over the Russian, following their recent meeting in Antwerp. Second seed Monica Seles also enjoyed a comfortable victory, beating Tathiana Garbin of Italy 6-2, 6-3, and there were victories too for Amelie Mauresmo, Tamarine Tanasugarn and Angeles Montolio. Third seeded Mauresmo of France overcame Switzerland's Emmanuelle Gagliardi 6-3, 6-2, sixth seed Tanasugarn of Thailand dismissed Russian Tatiana Panova 6-2, 6-3, and seventh seed Montolio from Spain overcame Slovakia's Janette Husarova 6-3 6-2. Both top seeded Williams and Kournikova struggled to find form in windy conditions, and the American was especially concerned about her comparatively ineffective serve. *AFP*

Sports, luxury cars at new center

A NEW place to go to for brand new luxury cars, SUVs and good quality sports and second-hand cars is It's About Cars which will have its grand opening and blessing at 6 p.m. today, Feb. 22. Rolly Galang, president of the new car center, together with his wife Beng, will lead well wishers. It's About Cars has also tied up with Sekurita Systems and Marking Consultants to be a marking station and dealer of the ACID (Anti Carnap Identification) Protection System. It's About Cars is located at No. 8118 E. Rodriguez Ave., Acropolis, Quezon City.

Drag racing attracts big field

THE VORTEX Drag War 2002 stirred up a storm with its first event at the Manila HarbourCenter last Feb. 16.

With participation from 148 drivers, the race ran until 4:30 a.m. the following day, breaking meet records.

Ace Vergel emerged as champion in the Quick 8 category and pro Class A, clocking the fastest time of 12.553 seconds. Sheldon Chua of Autodynamics also went home with two medals, placing second in the Quick 8 category and first in Pro Class B.

San Jacinto Racing's Ernest Bato bagged the second place in the Pro Class A while Obet Abinal occupied the same position for Pro Class B.

Bernard Sy of Goodwrench Performance lorded over the Pro Class C with Arnold Cortez of ATI Racing placing a close second.

The event was organized by Roadwise Motoring School with the support of Caltex, 103.5 K-Lite and the Manila Harbour Center. For details, call 722-4081 and 722-0998.

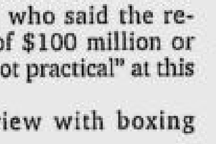
BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1992, Araullo High School beat Roxas High School, 92-91, to top the YKL Color-Philippine Integrated Chinese Athletic Association 1st Public High School Sports Festival basketball championship at the FEU gym. Also today in 1993, Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla shot a 1161 total to win the rapid fire pistol event of the Philippine shooting eliminations at the Marine range in Fort Bonifacio.

Enough of Tyson

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo



SO Mike Tyson will be granted a boxing license by the (Washington) D.C. Boxing and Wrestling Commission. So what? Tyson is still Tyson. And even though the three-member D.C. commission voted 3-0 to grant Tyson a license to fight, setting the stage for a possible Mike Tyson-Lennox Lewis world heavyweight title fight on June 8, the unanimous vote will not change the fact that Tyson is not the sportsman worthy of emulation.

Tyson is a repeat offender in the ring, a felon who has served time in prison for rape, a man with criminal charges pending against him for violence against women, an ill-tempered boxer who sparked a brawl at a pre-fight news conference in New York City recently to announce his forthcoming bout with Lewis originally scheduled in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Iron Mike has had problems with Nevada. In 1997, the state stripped Tyson of his license to fight there after he bit off a piece of Evander Holyfield's ear in what has been called the "Bite Fight" in Las Vegas. More recently, he has refused to submit to required drug tests in some American states and has had boxing licenses revoked and refused in the past.

Since being denied a boxing licensed by Nevada, Tyson has had similar problems with Georgia, Texas, Michigan and Colorado, to name a few.

In Colorado, Gov. Bill Owens called on the state to act swiftly in rejecting any application for Tyson to fight there, saying, "I believe the accomplishments of great boxers in the past such as Muhammad Ali are being tarnished by the inappropriate and illicit conduct of Mike Tyson."

Tyson is a terrorist, wrote hard-hitting columnist Rudy Navarro of Tempo. "He terrorizes people in the streets, in hotels, in casinos—everywhere. For desserts, he rapes women, whether white or black, then beats them black and blue."

Weeks ago, Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon announced a grandiose plan to stage the Tyson-Lewis fight here, but it did not sit well with local promoters and boxing luminaries, who said the required budget of $100 million or P2.5 billion is "not practical" at this time.

In an interview with boxing guru Quinito Henson, promoter Liza Elorde of the famous Elorde-Sarreal family said: "The proposal is not practical. We can't even raise the money for our boxing hero Manny Pacquiao to defend his world title here. Besides, Tyson is not a good example to our youth and should be banned from boxing."

Gabriel "Bebot" Elorde, also of the Elorde-Sarreal clan, asked: "Why not help rated Filipino boxers get world title cracks instead?" He added that Tyson is a box office attraction but his outrageous conduct shouldn't be tolerated.

Another boxing man, Rod Nazario, promoter and Pacquiao's business manager stressed that spending so much just to bring Tyson to fight Lewis in the Philippines is not good timing. "What for?" he asked. "*Naghihirap na nga tayo.*"

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

PAL Seniors Interclub gets going

By Al S. Mendoza

BACOLOD CITY—Luisita is poised to pocket another golf crown when the 16th PAL Seniors Interclub Golf Championships begins here today.

No team seems ready to offer a serious challenge to Luisita's domination of the country's most prestigious seniors team championship from among a record field of 60-plus teams.

"The record field should produce excellent shot-making again this year," said Domingo T. Duerme, the Interclub chair who is PAL senior assistant vice president. "I welcome all our participants as we renew friendships once more through the PAL Interclub."

Last year, Riviera had a big fight coming, but the pretenders from Silang, Cavite, collapsed in the last round against Luisita's steady play at the homestretch.

Luisita turned back a mini rally by Riviera at the turn of the final day.

Comm. Danny Pizarro, one of Riviera's mainstays last year, missed crucial putts coming home that could have turned the complexion of the match.

"Imagine, Danny suddenly kept missing two-footers on our way home," said Luisita's Lucio Yan then. "He even missed a one-footer for birdie. I couldn't believe it."

Former champ

Yan, the former seniors champion, is back to help carry Luisita's mission of winning its 10th PAL Seniors title in 16 years in the event that gives 4 points to a birdie, 3 to a par, 2 to a bogey and 1 to a double bogey.

Among Yan's teammates are Richie Garcia, Alex Montelibano, Alfonso Marcelo, Alan Gaston, King Sumulong, Tony Garcia and Cesar Munoz.

Riviera is not expected to crowd Luisita for top honors this time as some of Pizarro's teammates have left for one reason or another.

"We will still try our best to give them a good fight," said Benny Gopez, Riviera's playing team captain.

The PAL Seniors allows teams to field in eight players, with the best five scores counting, in the 54-hole competition ending on Sunday.

After a two-day break, the 55th PAL Interclub regular men's championship starts on Feb. 27. It will end on March 2

The Top 10 last year: Luisita 482, Riviera 472; Cebu 452, Villamor 450, Manila Golf Club 444, Valley 432, Cyrstal Spring 403, Mt.Malindang 357, Alliance 319, Moffet Field 299.

The major sponsors are Fortune Tobacco, Boeing, RMN, Airbus Industrie, NBC/MTV, ABS-CBN International, Premier Wine and Sprits and Smart Communication. The corporate backers are PLDT, Tanduay, Asia Brewery, 96.3 WRock, Pagcor and Century Park Hotel.

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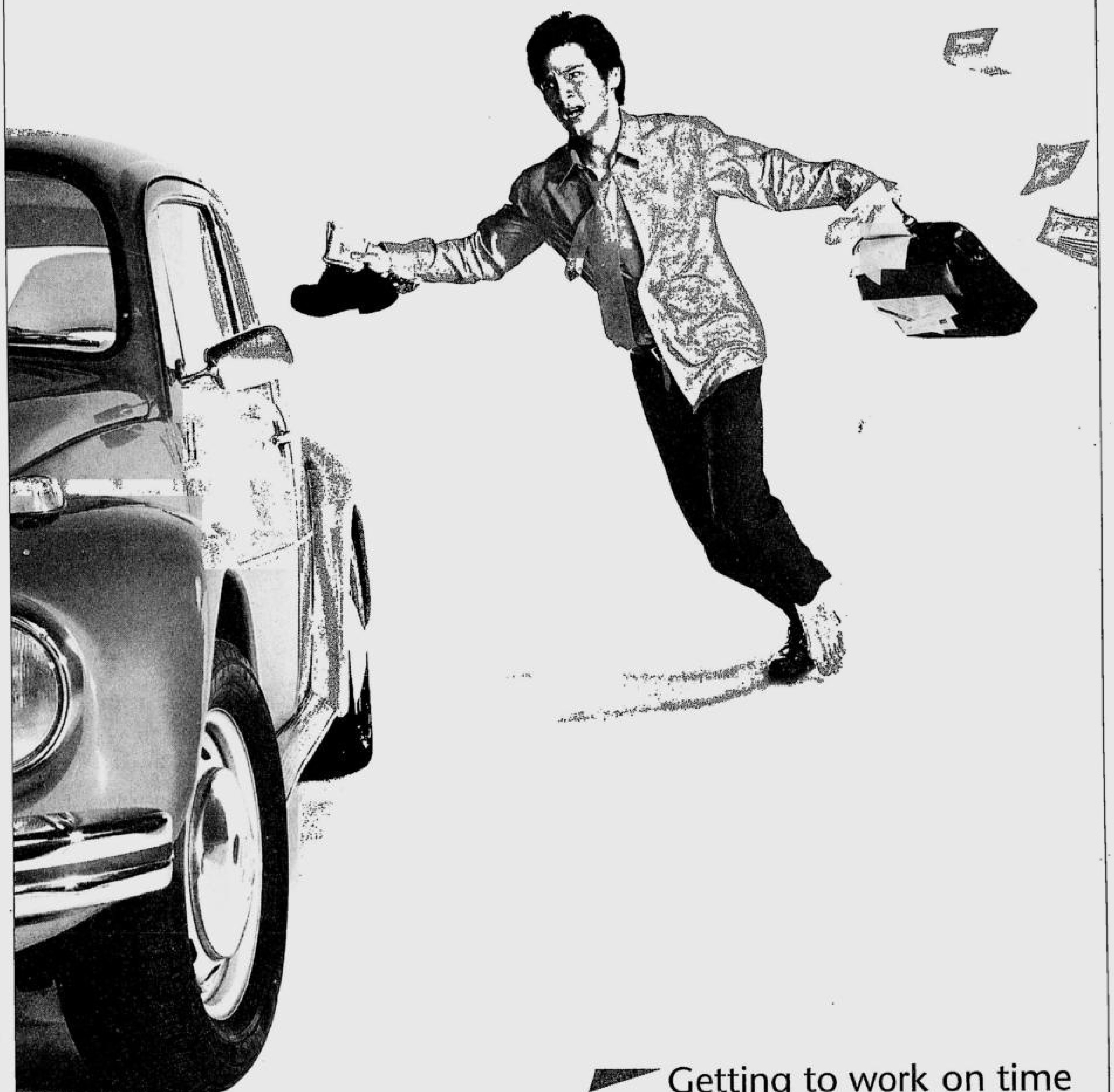
Race 2—1. Ilocos Queen 2. Men of Honor 3. Beauty and Grace
Race 3—1. Michael's Way 2. Guts Pleaser 3. Strong Bird 4. Primero de Mayo 5. Yes You Can
Race 4—1. Empowered 2. Day and Night 3. Sand Splash 4. King Edward
Race 5—1. Slew's Valentine 2. Free Entrance 3. Dinner Dress 4. Expresso 5. Very Sharp
Race 6—1. Flying Fortress 2. Aya's Star 3. Grand Prize 4. Prince of Africa 5. Adam's Call
Race 7—1. Divine Diva 2. Imperial Passion 3. Bold Freddy 4. Houdini 5. Dragon Lover
Race 8—1. Seiko Shita 2. Voice of Destiny 3. Ocean Menary 4. Standing Ovation 5. Cruiser
Race 9—1. Silver Dollar/Winning Heart 2. Ocean Dignity 3. Time Essential 4. Bari Bari 5. Rainbow Dazzler 6. Lady Victoria



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12:00NN	KARINA PIOQUINTO Zamboanga City ₱20,000	DENNIS GOCE Ermita Manila Nokia 8250	CRESEN MANDAP Pampanga ₱20,000	NORMA GARCILLANO Tarlac Nokia 6210	ALMA PEDROSA Pampanga ₱10,000	BEATRIZ DAEZ Cavite ₱50,000	AMER PANTIG Pampanga Nokia 8250
1:00PM	BENZON SABEROLA Tayabas, Quezon ₱10,000	EDWIN GOLEZ Cebu ₱20,000	DANILO CARELORIA Cebu ₱10,000	REANATE BIHASA Damarinas Cavite Nokia 8850	ERNESTO TAN Imus Cavite Nokia 9210	GEORGE CATUNAO Cagayan De Oro City Nokia 6210	EDWIN KARL SORIANO Makati City Nokia 6210
2:00PM	ERIC ABONG Negros Occidental Nokia 8850	FRANCISCO SANTOS JR. Marikina City Nokia 6210	IMELDA LOPEZ Camarines Sur ₱10,000	JOSEPH INTON Pampanga ₱10,000	VIRGINIA LIAD Pangasinan Nokia 6210	RODOLFO GARCIA Caloocan City Nokia 8250	JONAS MAGLAYA Parañaque Nokia 8250
3:00PM	DANIEL SANTOS Negros Occidental Nokia 6210	MELVA DELORIA Cavite ₱10,000	MIGUEL HILARIO Las Pinas City Nokia 6210	MA. KATRINA ISON Antipolo City Nokia 8250	FERNANDO RIMA JR. Quezon City Nokia 6210	MARCUS LAO Cebu City Nokia 6210	VIOLA ABAD Zambales ₱100,000
4:00PM	ANA MARIE SANTIANO Tarlac Nokia 8250	VILMA ARKONCEL Parañaque City Nokia 6210	JOEL MAPPATAO Canlubang Laguna Nokia 8850	CRISELDA TUGUIB Pangasinan ₱10,000	GERALD GARCIA Pangasinan ₱100,000	FRANCES VICENCIO Sampaloc Manila ₱10,000	JOSEPHINE GACAD Benguet ₱10,000

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METRO

Editor Louie C. Camino

Recah Trinidad's Bare Eye column will appear on Monday, Feb. 25.

MWSS, Kidney Center lots to be auctioned

By Agnes E. Donato

THE QUEZON City government next week will begin auctioning off properties, including the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System and the Kidney Center Foundation lots, for tax delinquency.

This was announced after both government-controlled companies failed to settle their tax obligations with, or at least make a partial payment to, the Quezon City government. The MWSS owes the city P142 million, and the Kidney Center owes it almost P10 million.

City treasurer Victor Endriga said the two firms topped the list of 44 real estate properties to be included in the Feb. 27 auction at the City Hall.

Among the establishments to be auctioned off are the Bank of the Philippine Islands branch in Barangay Doña Imelda, Eagle Court condominium in Barangay Central, Iceberg Refreshment Parlor in South Triangle, and the Basilia Huerta Estate on E. Rodriguez Avenue.

WPD: We are not negligent

By Philip C. Tubeza

"WE are not negligent."

This was the reaction of the Western Police District to Manila Mayor Lito Atienza's criticism that the city police was not doing enough to stop criminals, including policemen, from preying on foreign tourists.

"We are not negligent and we do not tolerate erring WPD members, particularly the new ones," said Supt. Gerry Agunod, WPD spokesperson.

Atienza earlier ordered WPD Director Chief Supt. Nicolas Pasinos Jr. to do something "drastic," particularly about policemen accused of mulcting foreigners.

Agunod noted the WPD has filed charges against four policemen for allegedly trying to rob a Saudi Arabian early this week. Their immediate superior, Senior Insp. Linsley Pillejera, is also under investigation for "command responsibility."

"The district director wants the investigators to dig dipper and accurately," Agunod said. "Of course, we also have due process. We just can't dismiss them."

He identified the four rookie policemen as Police Officers 1 Oliver F. Aluning, Roger A. Romualdo, Eduardo V. Robles, and Edwin Jurilla. Also charged with robbery was civilian Danilo B. Gidoc who allegedly joined the accused in demanding $1,500 from Arab Abdulrahman H. Alhumedhi on Sunday.

"The complainants should not be afraid to come out and identify the policemen who victimized them," Agunod said. "We can't go after them if no one will testify."

On the same day Atienza complained about the police failure to curb crime, another Japanese tourist fell prey to petty criminals in the city.

The suspects lured Takahiro Maeda, 30, to join them on a joy ride around the capital Wednesday. Then they drugged him and robbed him of P14,000.

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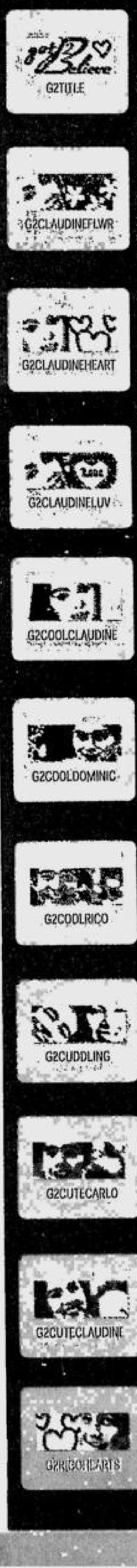

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Group Graphics List of Keywords	GROUP G2
Group Graphics*	GROUP <keyword>
To send a Got 2 Believe Group Graphics to a friend	GROUP <keyword> <cell number>
Picture Messages List of Keywords	PIC G2

To get GOT 2 BELIEVE...	Key in and send to 239
Picture Messages*	PIC <keyword>
To send a Got to 2 Believe Picture Message to a friend	PIC <keyword> <cell number>
Screen Saver List of Keywords	SAVER G2
Screen Saver*	SAVER <keyword>
To send a Got 2 Believe Screen Saver to a friend	SAVER <keyword> <cell number>
To join Magic Trivia Quiz	PLAY G2 TRIVIA
To play Got 2 Believe SineStorya	SINE G2
To join promo and know mechanics & prizes	WIN G2
To know your number of points	DPOINTS

*Available on selected handsets
To receive more information on the commands key in HELP <COMMANDS> and send to 239
Download requests will be charged as follows:
Help and other regular commands – P2.50;
Logos, ringtones, picture messages and screen savers – P12.00;
Games – P2.50
See flyers for details

Mechanics

1. From Feb. 17-27, 2002 all Talk 'N Text Movie Club members who download an SMS game transaction, logo, ringtone, picture message, screen saver or group icon will receive one (1) electronically-generated and recorded point.
2. The top ten (10) Movie Club members with the highest number of accumulated points will get the chance to meet and dine with their favorite GOT 2 BELIEVE movie stars on March 1, 2002 at Cork Bites in Quezon City. They will also receive a movie soundtrack CD and movie pass good for two persons for the regular showing of the movie in any theater in GMA.
3. The next top ninety (90) Movie Club members of the top 1,000 will each win a free GOT 2 BELIEVE soundtrack CD and a movie pass good for two persons for the regular showing of the movie in any theater in GMA.
4. The remaining top nine hundred (900) Movie Club members with the highest number of accumulated points will each win a free GOT 2 BELIEVE soundtrack CD.
5. Draw will be held on Feb. 27, 2002, 4 PM at the Information Gateway office, Unit 1706-B West Tower PSE Center, Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig in the presence of a DTI representative.
6. Winners will be notified through a voice call to their registered cellphone number. They must present their active Talk 'N Text cellphone with the winning SIM number and valid IDs with photo to claim their prizes starting March 1 at the SMART Wireless Center in SM Southmall, SM Megamall, SM North Edsa or Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall.
7. Promo is for GMA only.

Available Ringtones:

BELIEVING IN MAGIC JUST FOR THAT MOMENT SANA IKAW	BlvInMagic Jst4DtMmnt Sanaikaw	GOT TO BELIEVE IN MAGIC NADLVELOPE	G2BlvInMag Nadevlope

the Movie Club
Regular showing starts February 27, 2002

TALK 'N TEXT GSM
Yan ang galing without overspending!

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PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO 0317 SERIES OF 2002

SM CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 633-9999

NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR
4173868

1 ISANG PANAGINIP
2 RAT RACE
3 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
4 MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
5 SHALLOW HAL
6 IKAW LAMANG . . .
7 HINOG SA PILIT
8 KATE & LEOPOLD

SM CENTERPOINT
7149522 -7161418

1 IKAW LAMANG . . .
2 KATE & LEOPOLD
3 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
4 VANILLA SKY
5 SHALLOW HAL
6 HINOG SA PILIT
7 RAT RACE
8 BLACK HAWK DOWN
9 MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
10 ISANG PANAGINIP

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1 ISANG PANAGINIP
2 BLACK HAWK DOWN
3 RAT RACE
4 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
5 MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
6 IKAW LAMANG . . .
7 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
8 SHALLOW HAL
9 IKAW LAMANG . . .
10 RIDING IN CARS
11 KATE & LEOPOLD
12 HINOG SA PILIT

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1 SHALLOW HAL
2 MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
3 KATE & LEOPOLD
4 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
5 FROM HELL
6 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
7 THE OTHERS
8 RAT RACE
9 IKAW LAMANG . . .
10 IKAW LAMANG . . .
11 HINOG SA PILIT
12 VANILLA SKY

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401

1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 KATE & LEOPOLD
3 MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
4 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
5 RAT RACE
6 BLACK HAWK DOWN
7 HINOG SA PILIT
8 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
9 IKAW LAMANG . . .
10 SHALLOW HAL
11 VANILLA SKY
12 RIDING IN CARS

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1 KATE & LEOPOLD
2 VANILLA SKY
3 HINOG SA PILIT
4 IKAW LAMANG . . .
5 RAT RACE
6 MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
7 SHALLOW HAL
8 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
9 CLOSED
10 CLOSED
11 CLOSED
12 CLOSED

SM SOUTHMALL
8066782

1 RAT RACE
2 VANILLA SKY
3 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
4 SHALLOW HAL
5 BLACK HAWK DOWN
6 KATE & LEOPOLD
7 IKAW LAMANG . . .
8 MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
9 ISANG PANAGINIP
10 HINOG SA PILIT

SM CITY CEBU
2313876

1 SPECIAL EVENTS
2 THE OTHERS
3 VANILLA SKY
4 HEARTS IN ATLANTIS
5 LORD OF THE RINGS
6 KAULAYAW
7 IKAW LAMANG . . .
8 COLLATERAL DAMAGE

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1 GLASS HOUSE
2 CLOSED
3 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
4 IKAW LAMANG
5 KATE & LEOPOLD
6 PELIKULA AT LIPUNAN
7 VANILLA SKY
8 HEARTS IN ATLANTIS

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 KATE & LEOPOLD
3 MARSHALL DICK
4 KAULAYAW
5 RIDING IN CARS
6 IKAW LAMANG . . .

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1 IKAW LAMANG . . .
2 SHALLOW HAL
3 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
4 MOTHMAN PROPHECIES

SM CINEMA GUADALUPE
8820984

1 HINOG SA PILIT
2 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
3 RAT RACE

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
3 SHALLOW HAL
4 IKAW LAMANG . . .

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998

1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 IKAW LAMANG . . .
3 CORKY ROMANO
4 DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
5 VANILLA SKY
6 THE OTHERS

SM BICUTAN

1
2
3
4

SOON TO OPEN!
4 NEW
STATE-OF-THE-ART
VISION & SOUND

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

1
2
3
4

SOON TO OPEN!
4 NEW
STATE-OF-THE-ART
VISION & SOUND

THE PODIUM
18 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City

1
2

SOON TO OPEN!
2 NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART VISION & SOUND

6389781-85

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ARTFILM - GREENBELT

Art Film

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Strictly for ADULTS.
No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.

NOWHERE TO HIDE

AN EXCLUSIVE PHILIPPINE PREMIERE

"A lunatic derby of cuts & bravura movie making fired from the barrel of a gun... 'Hide' is all verve & vibes, a rollicking blend of exhibitionistic vitality." - The New York Times

NOWHERE TO HIDE is a different kind of detective action film that overrides genre expectations. Action scenes are played out in unexpected places, and we see the essential element of cinema - movement itself - at work. The dynamic visual styles matched by an eclectical soundtrack that synthesizes past and current sensibilities. Written and directed by Lee Myung-Se, the story focuses on Woo, an eccentric detective whose search for a murderer takes him and his team of detectives into the heart of the city and out to the countryside on the trail of a most elusive man.

NOWHERE TO HIDE boasts a red-hot cast of Korea's top actors: international actor Park Joong-Hoon, veteran actor Ahn Sung-Ki, along with young talents Jang Dung-Kun and Choi Ji-Woo.
Only the recently relaxed censorship in Korea allowed for Lee to make a film with such violently portrayed policemen. Nonetheless, he says the police closely monitored the film while it was being made.

NOWHERE TO HIDE was featured at the 2000 Sundance Film Festival, and at the Museum of Modern Art/Film Society of Lincoln Centers 2000 New Directors/New Films festival in New York City

Language: Korean with English Sub-titles

SKYFILMS NOKIA INQUIRER

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS) MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
2 (SDDS) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
3 (DTS) SHALLOW HAL
4 GOLD (DTS) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
5 GOLD (DOLBY) MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
6 GOLD (SDDS) RAT RACE
7 GOLD (DOLBY) SHALLOW HAL
8 KATE & LEOPOLD
9 IKAW LAMANG . . .
10 VANILLA SKY

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE
3 (DTS) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
4 RESERVE
5 RESERVE
6 (DTS) RESERVE
Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3274

1 IKAW LAMANG . .
2 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
3 HINOG SA PILIT

st★rmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1 IKAW LAMANG . .
2 SHALLOW HAL
3 MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
5 HINOG SA PILIT

METROPOLIS st★r
tel 850.4285

1 SHALLOW HAL
2 HINOG SA PILIT
3 IKAW LAMANG . . .
4 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
5 MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
6 RAT RACE
7 RESERVE
8 RESERVE

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) TEL. 751-2010 TO 13

1 SHALLOW HAL

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
2 VANILLA SKY

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC
tel 930.9515

1
2 HAPLOS NG PAGMAMAHAL
3 COLLATERAL DAMAGE

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1 HINOG SA PILIT
A RESERVE

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 BUBOT
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2
3
4 HINOG SA PILIT
5 MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
6 IKAW LAMANG . . .
7 (DTS) SHALLOW HAL
8 (SDDS) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
9 (DOLBY) RAT RACE

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2 HINOG SA PILIT

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1 IKAW LAMANG . .
2 IKAW LAMANG . . .
3 ISANG PANAGINIP
4 (SDDS) RAT RACE
5 HINOG SA PILIT
6 (DOLBY) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
7 (DTS) SHALLOW HAL
8 KAULAYAW
9 HALIK SA AKING LUPA

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS) SHALLOW HAL
2 IKAW LAMANG . . .
3 HINOG SA PILIT
4 RESERVE
5 (SDDS) MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
6 RAT RACE
7 (DOLBY) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
8 RESERVE

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1 IKAW LAMANG . . .
2 HINOG SA PILIT
3 (DTS) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
4 RAT RACE
5 (SDDS) SHALLOW HAL

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1 HINOG SA PILIT

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1 HINOG SA PILIT

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson HINOG SA PILIT
Lords HINOG SA PILIT
Jennet

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1 IKAW LAMANG . . .
2 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
3 SHALLOW HAL

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3 COLLATERAL DAMAGE

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 IKAW LAMANG . . .
3 RESERVE
4 HINOG SA PILIT
5 SHALLOW HAL

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1 IKAW LAMANG . .
2 HINOG SA PILIT
3 HALIK SA AKING LUPA
4 RESERVE
5 RESERVE
6 RESERVE

FRC Cinema
Talaba Bacoor Cavite

1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 HALIK SA AKING LUPA

Berma
tel 879.2029

1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 IKAW LAMANG . . .

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1 BUKO PANDAN
2 SHALLOW HAL

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1 IKAW LAMANG . . .
2 SHALLOW HAL
3 (DTS) COLLATERAL DAMAGE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 RIDING IN CARS
2 (DTS) IKAW LAMANG . . .
3 (DOLBY) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
4 SHALLOW HAL

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1 RIDING IN CARS
2 (DOLBY) SHALLOW HAL
3 (DTS) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
4 IKAW LAMANG . . .

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 FINAL ANSWER
2 IKAW LAMANG
3 SOON TO OPEN
4 SOON TO OPEN

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1 IKAW LAMANG . . .
2 KAULAYAW
3 (DOLBY) KATE & LEOPOLD
4 (DTS) HEARTS IN ATLANTIC

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 GIRLS FEVER
3 ANGELS EYE
4 (DTS) RESERVE

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 IKAW LAMANG . . .
3 (DTS) MARSHALL DICK
4 HALIK SA AKING LUPA
5 SHALLOW HAL

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1 IKAW LAMANG . .
2 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
3 SHALLOW HAL

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249-2558

1 IKAW LAMANG . . .
2 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
3 SHALLOW HAL

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 IKAW LAMANG . .
3 KAULAYAW

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1 MARSHALL DICK
2 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
3 RESERVE

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS) FINAL ANSWER
2 (DTS) COLLATERAL DAMAGE

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1 HALIK SA AKING LUPA
2 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
3 IKAW LAMANG

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 HEART IN ATLANTIC
3 VANILLA SKY
4 IKAW LAMANG

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX) KATE & LEOPOLD
2 IKAW LAMANG . . .
3 (DTS) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
4 THE OTHERS

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ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY dts SDDS

CMG INTERNATIONAL

PREMIERE CINEMA THX

NOW SHOWING

Shallow Hal

MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS

NOW SHOWING

galleria
632- 9115- 16
633- 7641 loc. 279

1 THX COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
3 SHALLOW HAL
4 RAT RACE
5 MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
6 RIDING IN CARS
7 VANILLA SKY
8 IKAW LAMANG . . .
9 KATE & LEOPOLD
10 FROM HELL

ermita
536 -7809- 12

1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 RAT RACE
3 IKAW LAMANG . . .
4 VANILLA SKY
5 KATE & LEOPOLD
6 MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
7 SHALLOW HAL

metro east -
marcos hway 682- 8193 / 8280

1 KATE & LEOPOLD
2 SHALLOW HAL
3 IKAW LAMANG. . .
4 RAT RACE
5 MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
6 HINOG SA PILIT
7 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
8 VANILLA SKY

novaliches
935- 3229 - 30

1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 VANILLA SKY
3 BLACK HAWK DOWN
4 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
5 SHALLOW HAL
6 IKAW LAMANG . . .
7 RAT RACE
8 KATE & LEOPOLD

imus
471- 8188 / 875- 3838

1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
3 HINOG SA PILIT
4 SHALLOW HAL
5 IKAW LAMANG . . .
6 RAT RACE

bacolod
441- 0453 / 0459

1 VANILLA SKY
2 LORD OF THE RINGS
3 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
4 GLASS HOUSE
5 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
6 DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE

iloilo
336- 8077 - 78

1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 HEART IN ATLANTIS
3 IKAW LAMANG . . . .
4 GLASS HOUSE
5 KATE & LEOPOLD
6 LORD OF THE RINGS

star mills-
Sn. Fernando, Pamp. 875- 1304

1 OPENS February 27, 2002
2
3
4
5
6

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soon to open.

Shallow Hal

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THX
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email: htc@netasia-mnl.net
http://www.robinsonsmovieworld.com
call-a-movie 536- 7812

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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	IKAW LAMANG ...
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	HINOG SA PILIT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	SHALLOW HAL
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	VANILLA SKY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	RAT RACE
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	IKAW LAMANG ...
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	MASAKIT HUWAG IPILIT / SOURCE OF THE NIGHT
ODEON	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
ODEON-2	HALIK SA AKING LUPA
ROBEN	HINOG SA PILIT
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	JOY RIDE / KING OF GLADIATORS
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	HINOG SA PILIT
REMAR	HINOG SA PILIT
REMAR-2	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	IKAW LAMANG HANGGANG NGAYON
B	HINOG SA PILIT
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
CINEMA-2	SHALLOW HAL
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	REBULOSYONARYO
CINEMA-2	HALIK SA AKING LUPA
CINEMA-3	MARSHALL DICK
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	FROM HELL
CINEMA-6	KATE & LEOPOLD
CINEMA-7	IKAW LANG HANGGANG NGAYON
CINEMA-8	KUNG IKAW AY ISANG PANAGINIP
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	RIDING CARS w/ BOYS
CINEMA-12	VANILLA SKY
CINEMA-14	IKAW LANG HANGGANG NGAYON
CINEMA-15	IKAW LANG HANGGANG NGAYON
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	RAT RACE
CINEMA-2	KATE & LEOPOLD
CINEMA-3	SHALLOW HAL
CINEMA-4	MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
CINEMA-5	RIDING IN CARS W/ BOYS
CINEMA-6	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

RELAX & SEE A MOVIE

POWER PLANT CINEMA

Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND·EX

RAT RACE - GP 12:10, 2:35, 5:00, 7:25, 9:50	KATE & LEOPOLD - GP 11:50, 2:25, 5:00, 7:35, 10:10	SHALLOW HAL - P 13 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 9:45, 10:20
MOTHMAN PROPHECIES - P 13 11:40, 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00	RIDING IN CARS w/ BOYS - P 13 1:30, 4:15, 7:00	COLLATERAL DAMAGE - R 18 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50

Matinee, P80, Mon.-Fri., 11:00 am to 4:45 pm Screenings, Free Seating.

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death in every door & a ghost in every room!
SPECIAL EFX + TERROR BEGINS FEB. 27!

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The Witch
Misery loves company.
Avenging mother
First born son
The lunatic serial killer
Withered lover
Decapitated head
Murderous blacksmith
strangled cheerleader
Naked princess
Grotesque baby
???
Torn prince
THIR13EN GHOSTS
www.13ghosts.com

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NOW SHOWING!

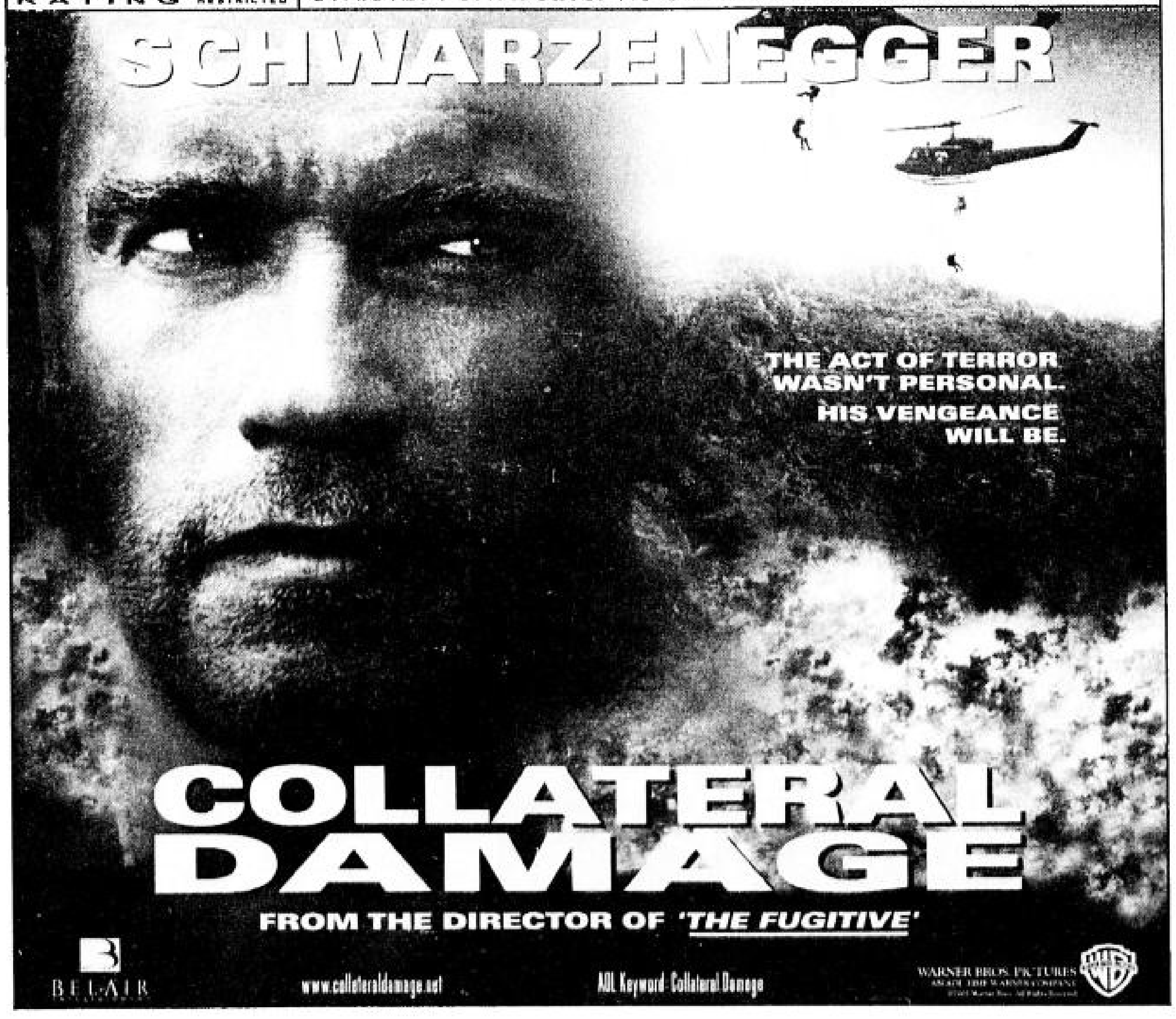
Six teams.
Seven hundred miles.
Two million dollars cash.
And only one rule: Get to it first.

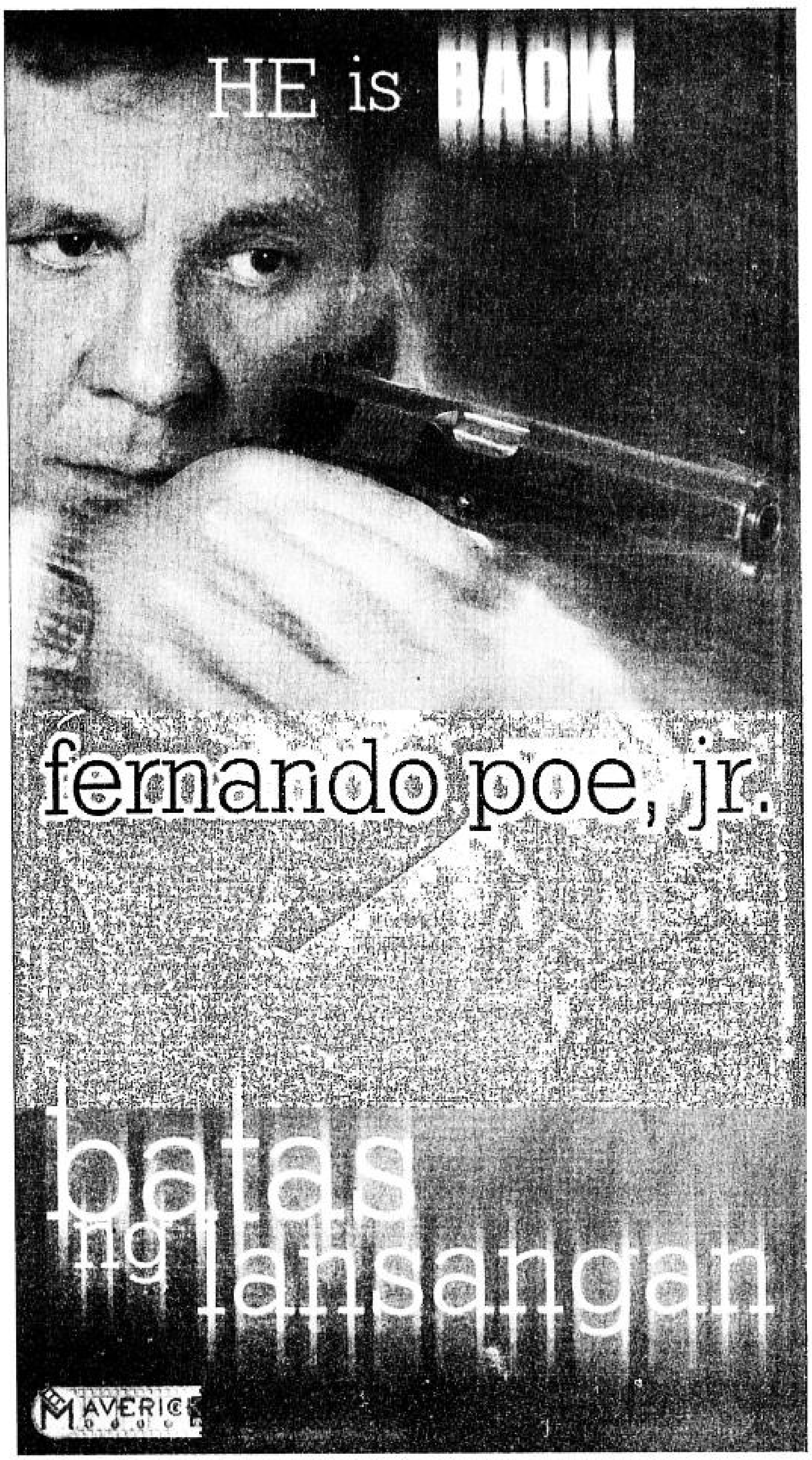
RAT RACE
FROM DIRECTOR JERRY ZUCKER
CO-CREATOR OF AIRPLANE AND THE NAKED GUN
SKYFILMS

MTRCB RATING G General Patronage | ALL AGES ADMITTED.

SECOND WEEK NATIONWIDE !

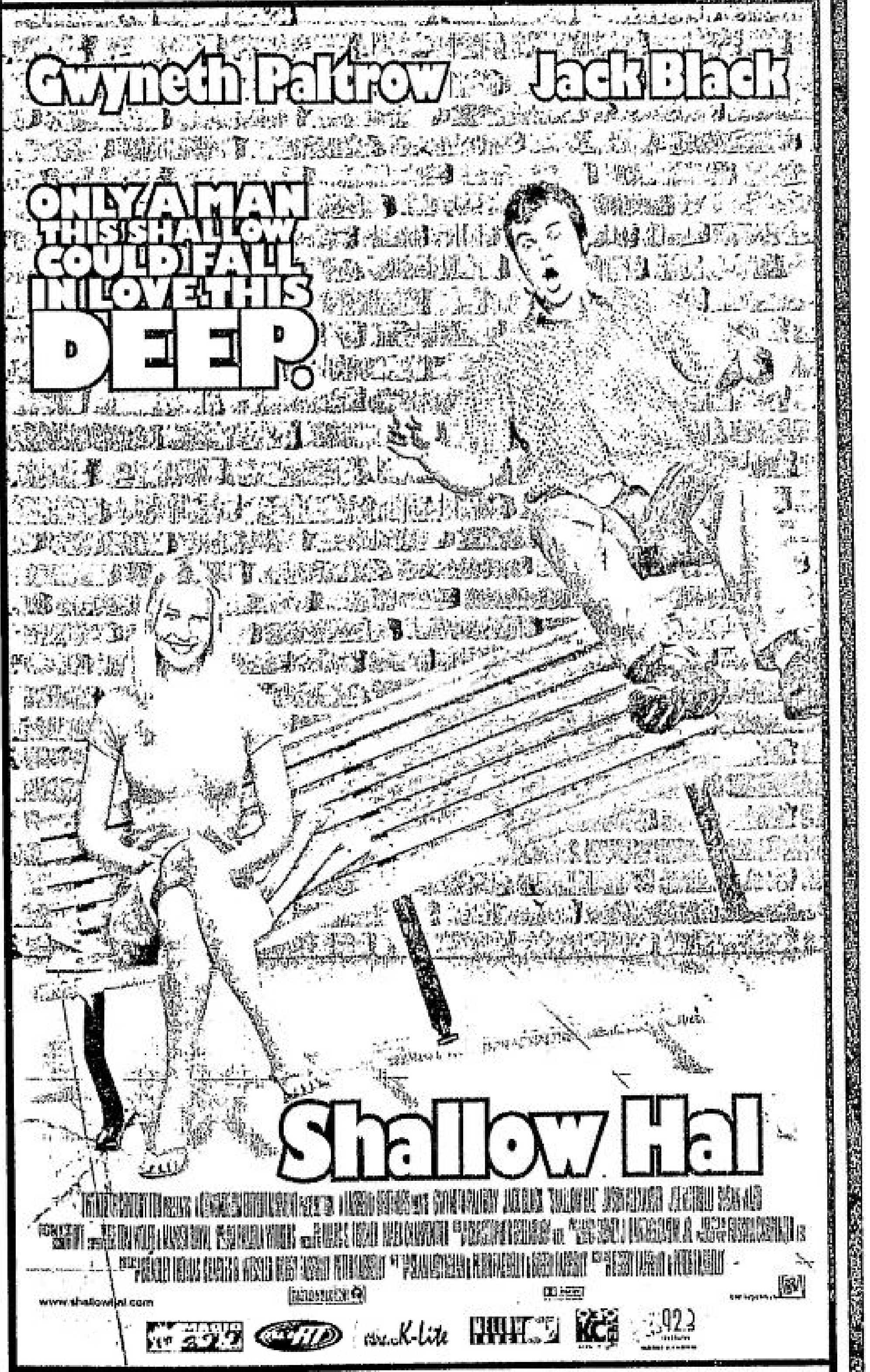
MTRCB RATING R RESTRICTED | STRICTLY FOR ADULTS. NO ONE BELOW 18 YRS. MAY BE ADMITTED


SCHWARZENEGGER
THE ACT OF TERROR WASN'T PERSONAL. HIS VENGEANCE WILL BE.
COLLATERAL DAMAGE
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF 'THE FUGITIVE'
BEL·AIR
www.collateraldamage.net
AOL Keyword: Collateral Damage
WARNER BROS. PICTURES


HE is BAOKI
fernando poe, jr.
batas ng lansangan
MAVERICK

OPENS FEBRUARY 27

MTRCB RATING PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult | Special thanks to: RUDY PROJECT, Smart "Simply Amazing", Information Gateway


Gwyneth Paltrow
Jack Black
ONLY A MAN THIS SHALLOW COULD FALL IN LOVE THIS DEEP.
Shallow Hal
www.shallowhal.com

NOW SHOWING

Given a chance, Franco also wants to act

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

AFTER proving himself in hosting, dancing and singing, **Franco Laurel** expresses his desire to try acting, too.

"Given a chance, I want to do challenging roles," Franco says.

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LAUREL. Now promoting his second album

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"Luna had very heroic motives," Buencamino says. "He was very hot-tempered, violent and made a lot of enemies among both government officials and his fellow generals. He wanted to unify the Army, but his ways were very destructive so much so that he caused disunity and even mutiny. In truth, he was a very highly principled, very brave human being."

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Perhaps of a less anti-heroic mould than Luna is Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo, as played by Miguel Vera.

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Like Paterno, the role of Felipe Buencamino is played as a villain in "Luna" by Roeder, who, along with Miguel Vera, is a member of the Actors Company, a pool of thespians on call for TP productions.

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The most controversial role in the musical undoubtedly is that of Doña Trinidad Famy Aguinaldo, mother of Emilio Aguinaldo, who is played by Joy Soler de Castro.

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"Ang Pagpatay Kay Luna" runs Feb. 22, with 2:30 p.m. matinee shows on Feb. 23 and 24. For ticket reservations, call 832-3661. Tickets will also be available at the gate (CCP box office, tel. 832-3704) and at all Ticketron outlets (891-5610/5743).

Choreography is by Agnes Locsin and production design is by Salvador Bernal.

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THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

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Glorietta Activity Center
Feb. 23, 2pm & 6pm, Feb. 24, 4pm

ISUZU CAR EXHIBIT
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Glorietta Activity Center
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ALABANG TOWN CENTER EVENTS
February 23
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Remate
A film by Yam Laranas
Ikaw Lamang Hanggang Ngayon
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SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

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A film by Yam Laranas
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AYALA CINEMAS Art Film

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

My own very private paradise

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

IF THERE'S one thing I desperately wish I had but don't see myself acquiring in the foreseeable future, it is a bathroom suite exactly like the one at the Mandala Spa in Boracay.

The last time I was in Boracay, friends were already urging me to give Mandala a try. At that time, I hadn't yet come to fully appreciate the benefits of therapeutic massage so the unenlightened soul that I was stubbornly said that going to a spa just wasn't my thing.

It's never too late to expose yourself to new pleasures, so I treated myself to an afternoon of pampering on my birthday. I had a body wrap to cleanse my body and skin of toxins, and a healing massage using the most fragrant Balinese oil blend I've ever had the pleasure of being kneaded and stroked with.

My favorite part came sandwiched between the treatments, a bath in a tub filled with soothingly warm water and many fragrant flower petals. If you've ever fantasized about an "American Beauty" moment, then this is it for you!

I asked my therapist what the flowers were for. Honestly, she said, the prettiness of the floating petals and their delicate scent mixed with the warm water were just psychological elixirs meant to heighten the overall feeling of luxurious caring and well-being.

If that was the goal, they exceeded my expectations. I never felt so "princess-like" in my 31 years of existence.

The bathroom was unbelievably spacious and beautiful. Occupying nearly half of the guest villa, the bathroom had an astounding view of all the lush tropical plants in Mandala's intricately landscaped gardens. I was made to feel like I was in my very own, nearly isolated island paradise.

It was tiled in creamy, matte white, with matching lavatory and circular ceramic sink. The fixtures were hi-tech chrome. Creamy white curtains blown by the breeze separated you from the rest of the villa.

Near the bathroom entrance was the showerhead. Extending about a foot and a half from the wall, the overhead piece was more than a foot in diameter. Amazingly, with the way the water gushed out, I felt like I was showering in fresh, light rain. There were no glass enclosures or shower curtains so the expanse was uninterrupted.

Near the panoramic windows was the bathroom's piece de resistance. The bathtub was large. I assumed it would allow two adults to bathe comfortably together. It was perfectly contoured to the body, and was quite deep, allowing the entire body—even when the knees were lifted to chest level—to be fully submerged. I'm hazarding a guess that the tub was made of fiberglass material that was very comfortable to sit on, and it managed to keep the water temperature stable. I asked what the tub's brand was, and I was told it was Artesian from Italy.

Take it from someone who loves nothing more than showering and bathing: Mandala's bathroom is the realization of what I'd always envisioned my perfect bathroom to be.

I advice those who are planning to go to Boracay to wait until summer is really in full swing. That's not too far away, really just a month away.

While we were there last week, the beach water wasn't as pleasant as it was when we were last there in early June last year. There was a lot of algae, making the water—which is normally a crystal blue—almost limey green in color, and the water temperature was almost uncomfortably cold. There were more splash-happy waves, too.

But if you're after making moonlit walks under a star-filled night sky, and walking on the softest, whitest, most feet-friendly sand, then Boracay is still the place to go.

Comedy of quiz-show errors

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

QUIZMASTER: *Sino'ng* National Artist *ang gumawa ng pelikulang* "Sakay" in 1939?

Contestant: Julio Diaz!

(No, Lamberto V. Avellana!)

* * *

Quizmaster: *Sino'ng* M *ang naging* understudy *ni* Lea *Salonga sa* "Miss Saigon"?

Contestant: Kim!

(No, Monique Wilson. Kim is the name of the character they both played.)

* * *

Quizmaster: *Ano ang* Tagalog word for sewing machine?

Contestant: Lagare!

(Wrong—but funny!)

* * *

Quizmaster: Complete his line in this song: "If you could read my—"?

Contestant: Lips!

(No, read my mind!)

* * *

Quizmaster: *Ano'ng* F *ang tawag sa* body of water *na* cataract?

Contestant: Fresh water!

(No, falls!)

* * *

Quizmaster: *Ilang* feet in 12 inches?

Contestant: One feet!

(Huh?)

* * *

Quizmaster: What is the religion founded by Zoroaster?

Contestant: Muslim?

(No, Zoroasterianism.)

* * *

Quizmaster: *Ilan ang* hind legs *ng palaka*?

Contestant: Apat!

(No, *dalawa lang. Hindi legs sabi, e.*)

* * *

Quizmaster: *Ano ang* sport *na may* homerun?

Contestant: Track and field!

(No, baseball.)

* * *

Quizmaster: If one half is .5, what is one-fourth?

Contestant: 42!

(Where did that come from? No, .25!)

'Portrait' cast announced

THE CCP has announced the full cast of its new staging of **Nick Joaquin**'s "A Portrait of the Artist as Filipino," which starts its run at the Main Theater on Feb. 28.

In a new twist to the classic play, the two lead roles are being played by men—**Behn Cer-vantes** as Candido and **Anton Juan** as Pablito. **Floy Quintos** and **Chelo Marquez** alternate as Bitoy Camacho, and **Marco Sison** and **Raymond Bagatsing** share the role of Tony Javier.

Lollie Mara and **Amiel Leonardia** play the elder Marasigan siblings, Pepang and Manolo, respectively. **Fidel Cuyugan-Asensio** is Doña Loleng. **Pinky Marquez** and **Lindo Obach** are Elsa Montes and Don Aristeo, respectively.

Jaime Yambao is Don Alvaro, **Trini Derbesse** is Doña Irene, and **Letty Tizon** is Doña Upeng. Other performances are on March 1, 7 and 8 at 8 p.m., and there will be 3 p.m. matinees on March 2, 3, 9 and 10.

Claudine's turn

EARLIER this year, **Jolina Magdangal** revived her film career with her first movie in two years, "Kahit Ikaw ay Isang Panaginip," which turned out to be a hit. Now, it's **Claudine Barretto**'s turn to test her popularity as a movie star with "Got 2 Believe."

MAGDANGAL

Like Jolina, Claudine hasn't made a movie in a long time, so she has a lot riding on her comeback vehicle. In her film, which is directed by the well-regarded **Olivia Lamasan**, Claudine has her "reel and real" sweetheart, **Rico Yan**, for her leading man, which should win the movie extra points as a post-Valentine offering.

In "Got 2 Believe," Claudine plays a wedding planner who is constantly at odds with a celebrity photographer (Rico)—until, against their better judgment, they find themselves falling in love.

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Fritz Ynfante

Choreography
Douglas Nierras

Writer
Roy C. Iglesias

Costumes
Eric Pineda

Musical Supervisor
Butch Miraflor

Image Consultant
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Production Manager
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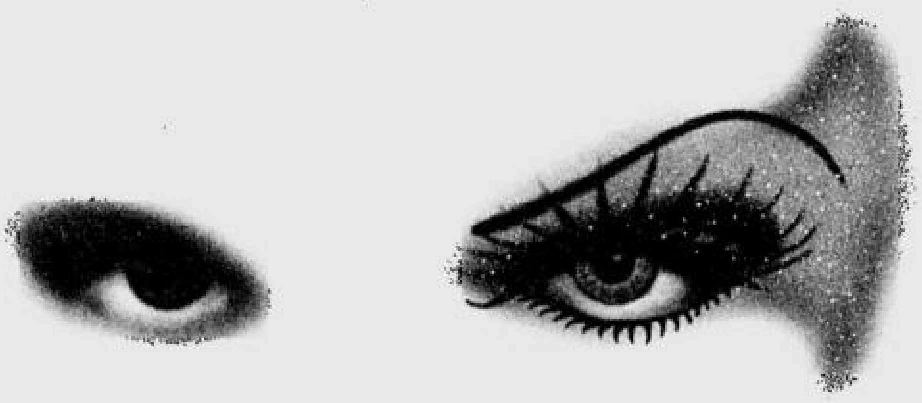

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Poison
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LOGO SINGLEHEART

RINGTONES:

Superman*
Five for Fighting
Keyword: **TONE SUPERMAN5**

Smooth*
Santana
Keyword: **TONE SMOOTHSAN**

Might Be You*
Stephen Bishop
Keyword: **TONE MYTBU**

Forbidden Fruit*
Paul Van Dyk
Keyword: **TONE 4BIDDEN**

What Can I Do*
The Corrs
Keyword: **TONE WATCANIDO**

Rubber Duckie
From Sesame Street
Keyword: **TONE RUBBERDUCKY**

Head Over Heals*
Go Go's
Keyword: **TONE HEDOVRHIL**

Intimacy*
The Corrs
Keyword: **TONE INTIMACY**

Be With You*
Ricky Martin
Keyword: **TONE BWITHYOU**

Sunny Day (Sesame Street Theme)
From Sesame Street
Keyword: **TONE SUNNYDAY**

Waiting For Tonight*
Jennifer Lopez
Keyword: **TONE WAITING4**

Kiss Me*
Six Pence None The Richer
Keyword: **TONE KISSME**

I Don't Want To Miss A Thing*
Aerosmith
Keyword: **TONE MISATING**

Lady Marmalade*
Christina Aguilera
Keyword: **TONE MARMALADE**

Lost In Space
Lighthouse Family
Keyword: **TONE LOSTSPACE**

It's Raining Men
Geri Halliwell
Keyword: **TONE RAININMEN**

12345
From Sesame Street
Keyword: **TONE 123**

Clint Eastwood*
Gorillaz
Keyword: **TONE CLINTEAST**

Rewind
Lighthouse Family
Keyword: **TONE REWIND**

I Will Survive*
Gloria Gaynor
Keyword: **TONE SURVIVE**

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BUSINESS

Editor **Raul O. Marcelo** ⊛ Assistant Editor **Corrie S. Narisma**

US energy firms eye $1.2-B investment

By Ronnel W. Domingo

PNOC Energy Development Corp. said United States-based firms Unocal and Gulf Resources were willing to invest $1.2 billion in geothermal and natural gas projects in the country.

PNOC-EDC chair Sergio Apostol said the state firm had sent a team to the United States to discuss a possible partnership with the American firms.

"Part of the talks would be whether they would support our proposed 500-megawatt Mt. Lobi geothermal plant project in Leyte," Apostol said.

He explained that the potential steamfield in Mt. Lobi could be as big as the one in Tongonan (also in Leyte) where PNOC-EDC operates a power plant complex.

In the Tongonan field, the state-firm operates with foreign partners several power plants with a total installed capacity of about 600 mw.

Apostol noted that the company would also pursue exploration activities in Mt. Cabalian in Southern Leyte and Rangas Tanawon in Sorsogon.

The geothermal potential of the Mt. Cabalian prospect was placed at 110 mw while that of Rangas Tanawon at 20 mw.

Apostol said the three firms were looking at the possibility of putting up a new company for the partnership.

The new firm would primarily be used as a vehicle for the exploration and development of the Mt. Lobi and Mt. Cabalian projects.

PNOC-EDC is also conducting tests on the commercial viability of its natural gas find in Victoria, Tarlac.

Also, the firm plans to drill a gas exploration well in the Cotabato basin with another PNOC subsidiary, PNOC Exploration Corp.

Apostol noted that the project was part of efforts to develop and harness other possible natural gas reserves in the country aside from that of Malampaya.

He added that they would also be searching for oil since exploration firms were able to find black gold under a proven natural gas reserve.

PNOC-EDC has earmarked P1.68 billion for its drilling operations this year.

The firm is currently working on a proposed $40-million, 40-megawatt geothermal facility in the province, which is expected to come onstream by 2004.

PNOC-EDC is the country's largest producer of geothermal energy.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

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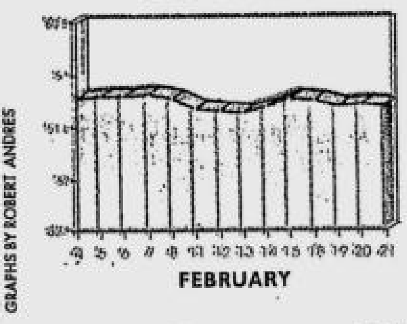


PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱51.30 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Feb. 21, 2002

¥133.76 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Feb. 21, 2002

GOLD: $290.75/291.25
per ounce Hong Kong, Feb. 21, 2002

STOCK MARKET

Stocks end lower

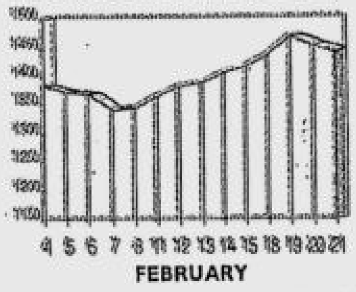
SHARES fell for the second consecutive day yesterday after an eight-day run of gains as investors unloaded select chips led by telecom giant PLDT and power retailer Manila Electric Co., analysts said.

"The market is ripe for this technical correction. There are few stocks which defied the market trend today," said Vanessa Lim, fund manager of UCPB Trust.

"This is another bout of profit-taking. But the losses were tempered by the strong rally in the Dow," said AB Capital stock analyst Jose Vistan.

Overnight, the blue-chip Dow Jones industrial average closed up 196.03 points, or 2.01 percent, at 9,941.17, its biggest gain in 11 weeks. *Reuters*

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

PEACe BONDS ROW

CODE-NGO under pressure to use profits well

By Margarita H. Debuque

(Last of a series)

SPECIAL REPORT

THE SUPPOSEDLY miniscule probability (0.0007 percent) of a single dealer cornering all the bids assumes random events with an equally probable chance of occurring. But when human behavior is factored in, such as when an institution wants desperately to win all the offers or at least a majority, Bureau of Treasury (BTr) officials say such a calculation is inappropriate.

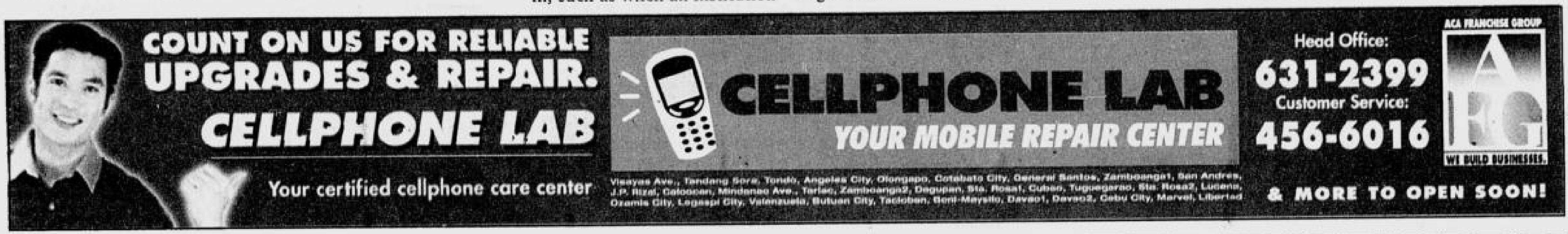
"We cannot stop a GSED (government securities eligible dealer) if it wants to bid aggressively because that's favorable to us and anyway this is not the only case when a single bank won the entire auction," National Treasurer Sergio Edeza says.

"In one auction, in fact, just one bank won all the 91-day treasury bills while another bank won all the 182-day T-bills. But we can't question that because that's the lowest rate and to have done otherwise would not be good government."

Opposition senators further insinuate that they know of at least one bank willing to bid at a price with a yield of 11 to 11.5 percent, or better than the tenders of RCBC, and even identified this financial institution as "the Metrobank group." The bank's officials, however, refused to testify in the Senate finance committee's hearings, the senators said.

One senator claims the said bank faxed a bid lower than RCBC's winning rates to the

CODE/ B4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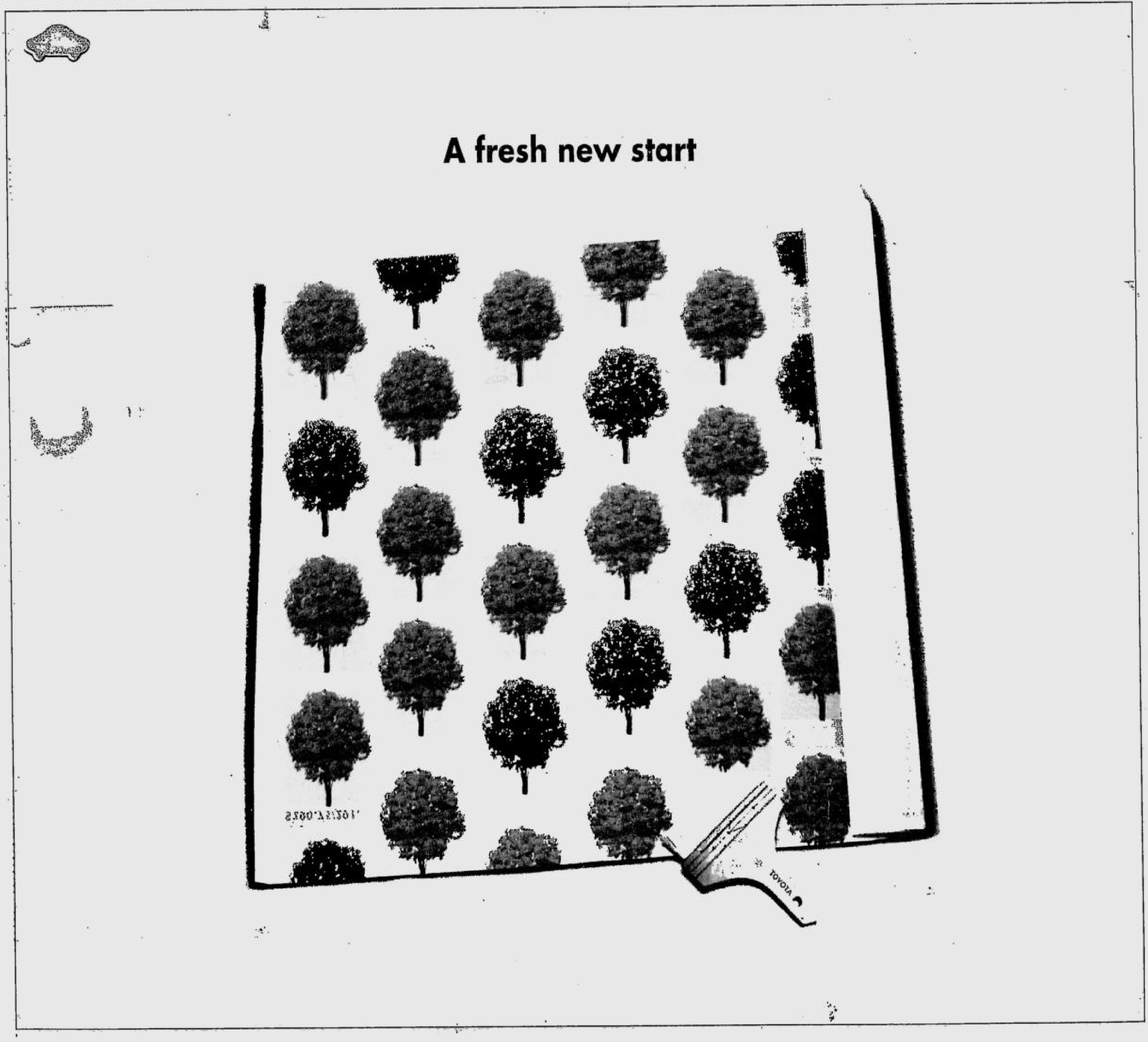

A fresh new start
TOYOTA

First Gas readies $1B worth of downstream gas projects

By Ronnel W. Domingo

FIRST Gas Holdings Corp. yesterday announced it was prepared to put together several downstream natural gas projects worth $800 million to $1 billion.

First Gas is a 60-40 joint venture between First Generation Holdings Corp. and BG Plc, formerly British Gas.

First Gen president Peter Garrucho said in a briefing yesterday that the planned projects would include gas transmission and distribution, and power generation.

"The backbone of these projects will be a $100-million gas pipeline from Batangas to Sucat in Manila where we intend to put up a $500-million, 500-mw power plant," Garrucho said.

Batangas hosts the Malampaya onshore gas processing plant, which receives the gas from the Malampaya field via a 504-km pipeline.

The First Gen chief said that $200 million to $400 million was earmarked for developing businesses that would sell natural gas for industrial, commercial, transportation and household uses.

He said First Gas wanted to redevelop the site of Napocor's decommissioned oil-fired Sucat power plant, but that it must win it first through a bidding.

The energy department earlier said the Sucat facility would be auctioned off as a stand-alone asset, rather than as part of a generating company.

Garrucho said the firm would aggressively bid for the Sucat property. However, if it would fail to win the bidding, he said the company would look for alternative sites near Metro Manila.

Congress last year granted a 25-year, non-exclusive franchise to First Gas to operate a natural gas pipeline in Luzon.

EXTENDED TRADING HOURS REUTERS

Filipino traders talk over the phone during the first day of extended trading hours at the Philippine Stock Exchange. The PSE, reacting to broker calls for longer hours, extended trading sessions by 90 minutes starting Wednesday, Feb. 20. An online brokerage said "the market will likely continue its momentum given encouraging improvement in value turnover for the past two days."

PDIC chief defends PNB rehab

DURING a Senate hearing yesterday, PDIC president and concurrent PNB Chair Norberto C. Nazareno defended the proposed rehabilitation plan of the Philippine National Bank.

Nazareno said the main objectives of the government were to make stable the operations of PNB to protect its depositors, prevent systemic risks to ensure stability of the financial system and to enable the government to dispose of its shares in PNB at the best price after the bank's operations have improved.

Considering the current quotations of PNB shares in the stock exchange of P75 per share, the proposed acquisition by the government of additional shares at P40.00 per share indicate an improved position of the government.

Nazareno also stated that before the Lucio Tan group took over PNB, the bank was experiencing liquidity problems and its capital was already below prescribed levels, thus requiring the infusion of additional capital in the bank which the government was unable to put up. These liquidity and solvency problems were attributed partly to the financial crisis in 1997 that caused major borrowers to default and the management deficiencies when it was under government management.

Boycotts, slowdowns illegal

LABOR MANAGEMENT FORUM

Josephus B. Jimenez

THE SUPREME Court has declared that workers' boycotts of overtimes scheduled by management are intrinsically illegal. Slowdowns are likewise against the law. The workers stand to lose their jobs once a ruling of illegal strike is issued.

Strikes, as the workers' weapon of self-defense, have always been expected, as a matter of public policy and statutory principle, to be an option of last resort. They are reserved as a final alternative when all non-adversarial and amicable approaches have already been availed of and found wanting.

Limit on strikes

Although the Philippine Constitution has enshrined the right to strike as a constitutional right, for the first time in our history, there is a clear caveat that strikes and other concerted activities should be "peaceful" and must always be conducted "in accordance with the law."

This constitutional reservation is even amplified in the Labor Code in that the right to strike must always be done "consistent with national interest." Thus, it need not be overemphasized that the right to strike is not absolute but subject to many restrictions.

CBA as a cause of dispute

The Supreme Court, in the case Interphil Laboratories Employees Union-FFW, et al vs. Interphil Laboratories, Hon. L. A. Quisumbing, GR 142824, affirmed on 19 Dec. 2001 the Court of Appeals' ruling, that earlier sustained the secretary of labor, now Associate Justice Leonardo A. Quisumbing.

Then Labor Secretary Quisumbing declared the workers' "overtime boycott" and "work slowdown" tantamount to illegal strike. He also declared the union president, vice president, treasurer, auditor and board of directors who spearheaded the "overtime boycott" and "work slowdown" have lost their employment status.

Union leaders' ULP

The court also approved the Court of Appeals' and labor secretary's ruling that the union leaders were guilty of unfair labor practices for violating the then existing CBA, which prohibits the union or any employee, during the existence of the CBA, from staging a strike or engaging in work slowdown or interruption of work. The union leaders were ordered to cease and desist from further committing the aforesaid illegal acts.

The Supreme Court declared that the union leaders' act of leading the so-called "overtime boycott" and "work slowdown" was a direct violation of their CBA. An explicit stipulation in their CBA was a promise to respect the company's prerogative to schedule hours of work and to change it.

Slowdowns are illegal

The leading case on the illegality of work slowdowns was then Justice Andres Narvasa's ponencia in IBM vs. NLRC and San Miguel Corp. What made the slowdown illegal was the fact that it was a betrayal of the workers' explicit commitment in the CBA that "there shall be no strike, walkouts, stoppage or slowdowns of work, boycotts, secondary boycotts, refusal to handle any merchandise, picketing, sit down strikes of any kind, sympathetic or general strikes, or any other interference with any of the operations of the company, during the term of xxx their CBA."

The court then held in IBM/SMC case "xxx that the workers' concerted refusal to adhere to the work schedule in force for the last several years, is a slowdown, an inherently illegal activity, essentially illegal even in the absence of a no-strike clause in a CBA or a statute or a rule."

Strike on installment

The Supreme Court agrees that a work slowdown is a strike on installment. It is "a willful reduction in the rate of work by concerted action of workers for the purpose of restricting the output of the employers in relation to a labor dispute."

The court condemned such an act of purposely retarding production to compel management to grant their demands. It was explained why slowdowns are generally looked down. It's because "xxx they remain at their positions and accept the wages paid to them, but at the same time they select what part of their allotted tasks they care to perform of their own volition or refuse openly or secretly to the employer's damage xxx." Slowdowns are deemed evil because workers "work on their own terms."

Wage hike, not condonation

While the case was pending, the company granted substantial separation package to some officers of the union. The workers now claim that such a gesture was tantamount to a condonation of the union leaders' illegal strike. The Supreme Court disagreed.

Instead of holding it against the company, the court even commended management. Thus: "Respondent company could have withheld these benefits pending the final resolution of this case. Yet, considering perhaps the financial hardships experienced by its employees and the economic situation prevailing, respondent company chose to let its employees avail of their separation benefits. The court views the gesture of respondent company as an act of generosity, for which it should not be punished.

This ruling should serve as a wake-up call for union leaders and members who are usually inclined to use their right to strike recklessly. More so to those who are more scheming by opting to go on slowdowns, boycotts of overtimes and even sabotage. The law condemns such reprehensible acts.

Philippine experience

Recorded in the annals of Philippine labor jurisprudence are various cases of strikes that were declared illegal by the Supreme Court. Many of these cases occurred in SMC, PAL, Nestle and in various banks and manufacturing firms.

Today, there is an ongoing strike in Nestle and in many other companies. We don't want to prejudge the case. But the workers know the consequences of their acts. They better go slow on slowdowns, boycotts, and illegal strikes. The consequences are incalculable.

(For comments, you can reach the writer at the following e-mail address: josephus.jimenez@pcppi.com.ph)

CURRENCIES

Feb. 21, 2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.149425	1.000000	51.3050
Japan	Yen	0.008597	0.007479	0.3837
United Kingdom	Pound	1.640920	1.427600	73.2430
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.147552	0.128370	6.5860
Switzerland	Franc	0.675974	0.588097	30.1723
Canada	Dollar	0.723500	0.629445	32.2937
Singapore	Dollar	0.628754	0.547016	28.0647
Australia	Dollar	0.594325	0.517063	26.5279
Bahrain	Dinar	3.049036	2.652661	136.0948
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.306514	0.266667	13.6814
Brunei	Dollar	0.626731	0.545256	27.9744
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000113	0.000098	0.0050
Thailand	Baht	0.026272	0.022857	1.1727
UAE	Dirham	0.313024	0.272331	13.9719
Korea	Won	0.000877	0.000763	0.0391
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.870000	44.6354
Brazil	Real	0.471285	0.413223	21.2004
Denmark	Kroner	0.473599	0.412031	21.1393
India	Rupee	0.134499	0.117014	6.0034
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.023700	0.020619	1.0579
Mexico	New Peso	0.302521	0.263193	13.5031
New Zealand	Dollar	0.126724	0.110250	5.6564
Norway	Kroner	0.483155	0.420345	21.5658
Pakistan	Rupee	0.128811	0.112066	5.7495
South Africa	Rand	0.019189	0.016694	0.8565
Sweden	Kroner	0.108771	0.094631	4.8550
Syria	Pound	0.022538	0.019608	1.0060
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.032840	0.028571	1.4658
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.001201	0.001045	0.0536

DISCLOSURES

PHILODRILL Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 22 with record date on Feb. 28.

* * *

GOTESCO Land Inc. denied having any information that could explain the 45.8-percent increase in its share price that rose from P0.048 to P0.07 per share.

* * *

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange approved the appointment of Urbano Razon Jr. as corporate nominee of **SG Securities Philippines Inc.**

* * *

REGIS Partners Inc. changed its corporate name to **Deutsche Regis Partners Inc.**

* * *

PHILCOMSAT Holdings Corp. was given a two-month extension by the Philippine Stock Exchange to comply with the structured reportorial requirements of PSE.

* * *

REYNOLDS Philippines Corp. was given until April 5 by the Philippine Stock Exchange to comply with the structured reportorial requirements of PSE.

* * *

CENTRO Escolar University bought 7,000 of its own shares at P8 per share.

* * *

APC Group Inc. denied having any information that could explain the unusual movement in the trading of its shares.

* * *

PURE Foods Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on April 25, 2 p.m. at the 2/F Magellan's Gallery, San Miguel Properties Center. Record date is on March 19. Also, the board approved to change the word "Corporation" to "Company Inc." in its corporate name. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI-Research***

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Thursday, February 21, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	5,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	68	68.5	68	68	3,293,100
China Banking Corp.	580	580	580	580	200
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	32	33	32	32	459,200
First E-Bank Corp.	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	3,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	213	215	213	215	710,160
Philippine National Bank	73.5	73.5	72	72	3,600
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	36,000
Security Bank Corp.	19	19.25	19	19.25	2,500
Union Bank of the Phil.	21	21	20.5	20.5	90,300
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.38	1.42	1.38	1.42	231,000
First Abacus Financial	0.59	0.59	0.59	0.59	700,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	10,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1350	1350	1350	1350	30
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	10,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1040	1040	1030	1030	320
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp	32	32	30	31	12,500
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.71	0.72	0.7	0.71	5,010,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	815	815	810	815	19,750
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.0825	0.095	0.0825	0.0925	174,100,000
Piltel	0.6	0.62	0.58	0.61	25,950,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.3	0.33	0.3	0.33	200,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	520	525	510	520	226,540
Ivantage Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.58	0.58	410,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.024	0.024	0.023	0.023	79,900,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	33	33	32	32.5	872,600
Manila Electric Co. B	51.5	52.5	49.5	50	1,638,700
Petron Corp.	2	2	1.96	1.96	6,008,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	3.05	3.1	2.95	2.95	3,321,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	1.52	1.52	1.52	1.52	21,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	790,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	1,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	79,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.18	2.18	2.18	2.18	110,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	379,300
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	24.25	24.75	24	24	286,600
RFM Corp.	1.42	1.42	1.4	1.4	777,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	10,000
San Miguel Corp. A	49	49	48.5	48.5	239,900
San Miguel Corp. B	67	67	66	66	868,200
Universal Robina Corp.	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	11,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Atok-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	8	8	8	8	1,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg. A	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.67	10,000
Ayala Corp.	7	7.1	6.8	6.9	1,227,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.88	1.92	1.88	1.92	1,385,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.86	0.87	0.85	0.87	680,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	310,000
APC Group Inc.	0.23	0.24	0.2	0.23	2,250,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	33,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.36	0.37	0.36	0.36	860,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	20,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	170,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.22	0.24	0.22	0.24	400,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.92	0.93	0.89	0.93	18,180,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	240,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.165	0.165	0.16	0.165	120,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.39	0.39	990,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	1,420,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.115	0.155	0.115	0.15	51,750,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.045	0.048	0.045	0.048	600,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	10,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.06	1.08	1.06	1.08	225,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	32	33	31.5	33	2,406,800
Global Equities Inc.	0.205	0.205	0.19	0.195	810,000
House of Investments Inc.	0.37	0.39	0.36	0.38	1,070,000
Ionics Inc.	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.6	5,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.94	1.94	1.92	1.92	116,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	31,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	1,500,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.85	0.85	0.84	0.85	1,380,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	30,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.38	0.4	0.38	0.38	6,450,000
Music Corp.	0.41	0.43	0.39	0.41	15,230,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	300,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.4	0.41	0.4	0.41	540,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	10,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co.	0.1	0.14	0.1	0.14	1,900,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	30,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.31	0.32	0.31	0.32	530,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	10,000
Federal Chemicals Inc.	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	18,000
Pryce Corp.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	1,000,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	18,400
Steniel Manufacturing	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	40,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.56	0.57	0.54	0.57	16,540,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.62	80,000
Mondragon Intl Phils. Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	170,000
Philippine Racing Club	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	6,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	32	32	30.5	31	1,154,900
Equitable PCI Bank-War	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	20,000
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0016	0.0016	0.0016	0.0016	218,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series U	1, 0.25	10.25 1	0.25 1	0.25	800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	2,100
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	400
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10	10	10	10	1,000
Philweb.Com,Inc -Warrants	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	22,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	7	7.1	6.9	6.9	6,339,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	200,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.31	0.32	4,210,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.55	0.55	0.54	0.54	3,310,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.32	0.33	6,960,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.4	2.42	2.38	2.4	9,105,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.42	0.46	0.42	0.46	3,710,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.22	0.22	40,000
SM Development Corp.	1.16	1.16	1.14	1.16	782,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.3	7.3	7.1	7.3	4,198,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	0.095	0.095	0.09	0.09	5,900,000
Urbancorp Realty Dev. Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	150,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial.	0.0048	0.005	0.0046	0.0046	47,000,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.046	0.046	0.043	0.044	34,600,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.21	0.21	0.2	0.2	2,520,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.215	0.22	0.215	0.22	2,880,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	8,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0046	0.0048	0.0046	0.0048	85,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	9,700,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	100,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.31	0.32	0.31	0.32	130,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.023	0.024	0.023	0.024	900,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	30,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	7,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.13	0.145	0.115	0.12	21,290,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.25	0.27	0.25	0.27	50,000

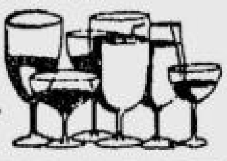
	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	5,556,410	394,761,465.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	707,112,490	571,147,625.00
PRO	44,904,000	104,686,510.00
Mining	189,930,000	3,564,150.00
OIL	59,240,000	2,870,600.00
GRAND TOTALS:	1,006,742,900	1,077,030,350.00

	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	574.37	DOWN 0.13
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,972.12	DOWN 13.62
PRO	645.84	DOWN 7.21
Mining	1,401.39	DOWN 50.57
OIL	2.21	DOWN 0.04
All Shares Index	760.69	DOWN 4.15
Composite	1,443.44	DOWN 9.73

NO. OF ADVANCES: 38; NO. OF DECLINES: 41; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 49;
NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 128; NO. OF TRADES: 4,207

A missing jet

COCKTALES



Victor C. Agustin

A SEQUESTERED Citation II jet occasionally used by both Joseph Estrada and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was sold last month under mysterious circumstances, with its sale proceeds, about P60 million, still unaccounted for.

The jet was owned by Philippine Overseas Telecommunications Corp., the sequestered telecommunications holding company controlled by Marcos and Estrada cronies.

Even the PCGG representative, Jorge Sarmiento, could not explain the circumstances of the sale, saying he had resigned from the POTC board as of Jan. 20, 2002. The sale allegedly happened a week earlier, on Jan. 12.

The jet had earlier been committed to aircraft broker "Joe" Hagedorn, the father-in-law of former San Miguel chair Andres Soriano III, who, banking on the POTC assurance, in turn flipped it and found a ready buyer in the United States.

But, according to the grapevine, when Hagedorn and the US buyer demanded delivery of the jet, POTC president Sylvia Ilusorio-Yap reneged, claiming that there had been no actual signing of the sale papers yet.

The US buyer then threatened to sue Hagedorn.

The POTC board later found out that Yap, on the strength of an alleged board approval signed by corporate secretary Victoria delos Reyes, sold the jet to a Florida company for $1.2 million, as against the going rate of $1.8 million to $2.5 million.

POTC treasurer Honorio "Babyboy" Poblador III reportedly became furious when informed of the sale price and had to be rushed out of the POTC board meeting direct to the Makati Medical Center after complaining of chest pains.

Because of the alleged irregular sale, Yap's allies in the POTC board, Carmelo "Butch" Africa (a *kumpare* and drinking buddy of Jinggoy Estrada), cousin Victor Africa, Kitchie Benedicto and Katrina Ponce Enrile, ousted Yap as president and installed Victor Africa as acting president.

What has complicated the transaction is that Yap has proposed to pay POTC Baguio Country Club shares instead of cash. According to the grapevine, Yap was proposing to swap, in effect, the Cessna Citation II jet for 100 BCC treasury shares.

Yap can effect such a share-swap since she controls the Baguio club by virtue of her being the chair of the club's executive committee. Delos Reyes, the POTC corporate secretary, happens also to be the corporate secretary of the Baguio Country Club.

The nominal chair of BCC, Rep. Rodolfo Albano, happens also to be a Yap lawyer. The BCC president, lawyer Federico Agcaoili, is a brother-in-law of Yap, aside from being another Estrada appointee in the POTC subsidiary, Philcomsat.

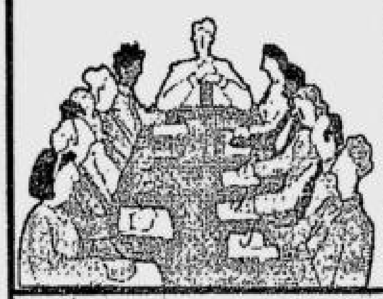
We understand that the POTC board has already submitted a complaint-report to PCGG Chair Haydee Yorac and President Macapagal-Arroyo about the transaction.

Heard through the grapevine

THE ATENEO de Manila University is set to rename its undergraduate school of management in Loyola Heights after taipan John Gokongwei Jr.

Gokongwei, incidentally, is a graduate of the other school, the one on Taft Avenue.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)



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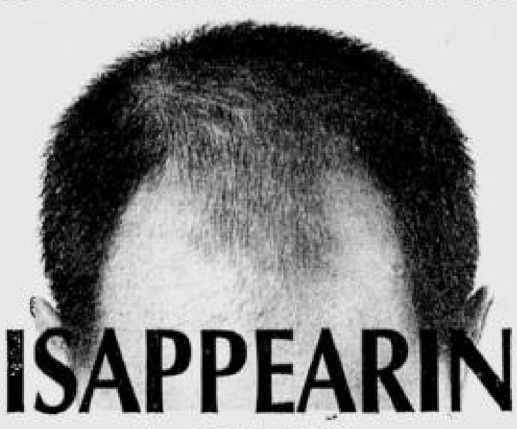

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MON. - FRI. (8 AM - 7 PM) / SATURDAY (8 AM - 3 PM)

"Save the Earth, Plant a Tree" isn't just a catchy slogan. It's a reflection of Toyota's heartfelt commitment to environmental conservation.

At Toyota, we share your concern for the environment. We are trying to do our part by designing more eco-friendly cars, introducing cleaner, greener production methods, and voluntarily participating in reforestation projects. Many of our customers here in the Philippines are already familiar with the Toyota "Save the Earth, Plant a Tree" campaign, but that is just part of the story. In fact, we have been cooperating on an urban forestry and greening program with the Institute of Natural Resources at the University of the Philippines at Los Baños since 1999. We planted over 16,000 trees at the Toyota Santa Rosa (Laguna) Industrial Complex, and established a nursery where forestry students can conduct fieldwork on the screening and selection of appropriate species for future reforestation projects. It may be just a small start, but it is a fresh new start that is helping the young generation to make a big contribution to our planet's future.

TOYOTA

Gov't offers trade-for-debt swap to Napocor creditors

TUNA may be the slightly salty answer for foreign creditors seeking repayment of the country's high foreign debt.

The lenders would rather have cash, but the Macapagal administration will offer fresh, frozen and canned tuna when it negotiates repayment of money owed by heavily indebted state-owned National Power Corp. (Napocor) to Italian creditors.

If tuna is not enough, the country will offer coconut oil and a seaweed extract called carrageenan to repay around $80 million of the power firm's more than $4 billion in total foreign debt.

The Philippines is famous for its tuna and is the world's largest exporter of coconut oil and carrageenan, which is used as an additive in foods, toothpaste, cosmetics and glue.

Napocor's trade-for-debt swap would be the first transaction under a renewed government drive to reduce the country's ballooning foreign debt through countertrade agreements while at the same time promoting Philippine exports.

"It terribly eases the pressure of paying hard currency on maturing loans. The bigger benefit is you have effectively opened up (markets) for our goods," Arthur Yap, president of Philippine International Trading Corp. (PITC), told Reuters.

PITC is the lead agency in the government's pursuit of countertrade deals to ease the Philippines' foreign debt burden, which stood at $52.46 billion or 73.8 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) at Sept. 30 last year. Government debt stood at $30.8 billion, or 43.1 percent of GDP.

The Philippines has previously swapped its prime export commodities for debt with foreign creditors.

In 1990 to 1991, it paid off $8.85 million worth of Napocor loans from Romania with a variety of items—from personal care products and garments to sardines and fruit juices.

Manila also swapped copper cathode for $11.5-million debt of its rural electricity agency with China from 1993 to 1998.

Iraq accepted sugar, coconut oil and pharmaceuticals as payment for $20 million worth of loans to a state-owned toll operator in 1995 to 1996.

Although the amount of debt swapped for goods in the past seems miniscule, the government is convinced the scheme is worth the sweat and tears of its officials who negotiate for countertrade deals with foreign creditors—sometimes with no success.

Napocor needs to source $1 billion this year to pay off maturing foreign debt, with potential for only around $80 million of this to come from fish or other countertrade.

"We have not talked about amounts yet. It depends on how much they (Italy) will agree on," National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said in an interview.

Napocor, the country's biggest power generation firm, has had problems raising cash by itself. This month it canceled a planned $500 million bond offer due to poor market conditions.

The Philippines is not the only country to turn to barter when cash is tight. In the 1980s, the former Soviet Union traded vodka and Lada cars for New Zealand butter.

"It's really difficult. The concept is good but if you are the lending country, you don't want to be paid in bananas. You want to be paid in cash," PITC's Yap said.

"So it's more of a concessional thing between trading partners and allies, you have to look at the bigger geopolitical issues involved."

The government, in reviewing its foreign debt financing options last year, decided that the trade-for-debt scheme should be pursued with more vigor.

"We would like to increase debt swaps now," PITC's Yap said, adding the new program is targeted to specifically reduce the amount of loans with government guarantees.

Victa Magcase, a senior PITC official, said the new program also seeks to repay foreign debt that is still current. In the past the debt-for-goods swaps involved overdue loans. *Reuters*

Colayco named CEO of BCDA; seeks Clark-Subic union

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

COLAYCO

NEWLY appointed Bases Conversion Development Authority president and chief executive officer Rufo Colayco has set as his top priorities the integration of the Subic port and Clark airport and the continued development of the Fort Bonifacio Global City.

Similar to the vision he made in 1998 when he was appointed chair of Clark Development Corp. (CDC), Colayco said the Subic-Clark integration would be the catalyst for growth in the agriculture-based Central Luzon area.

He said he still believed that Central Luzon would spearhead the development of the entire Philippine economy with its vast flatlands and its proximity to Metro Manila.

Colayco said that under his term, the BCDA would ensure that CDC and the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority would build closer ties to complement their strengths and overcome their weaknesses when taken as isolated areas for development. The BCDA has oversight function over CDC and SBMA.

This means giving top priority to the construction of the Subic-Clark expressway, the development of an international port terminal in Subic, and upgrading of Clark as the second international gateway to the Philippines.

Aside from Subic-Clark, Colayco said the BCDA would pursue the development plans for the Global City despite delays in its completion target due to the property bust and financial troubles plaguing developers.

Colayco assured that the BCDA would respect all existing contracts with developers such as Fort Bonifacio Development Corp., Camp John Hay and Poro Point.

Colayco, an SGV alumni and former president of Kuok Properties Philippines Inc., said the President decided to split the post formerly held by Rogelio Singson into two—he is president and CEO while Florencio Padernal is chair—to ensure that the BCDA has a better handle of its broadening portfolio of former military bases being redeveloped for commercial purposes.

He said Singson resigned his post because he wanted to go back to the private sector.

CODE-NGO under pressure to use profits well

From page B1

Treasury's Securities Origination Division at the appointed time but officials intercepted this such that it never registered in the auction's records.

Sources from the BTr and the finance department privy to the details of the auction, however, note that the dealer (Metrobank) did submit a bid but while its valuation was "competitive" it was never within the range claimed by the opposition senators,

Edeza said that this value never entered the bureau's fax machines and that if it did, the auction committee would have awarded it "outright." "It is our job to borrow at the lowest rate available, but no such bid was ever submitted," he maintains.

Sen. John Osmeña said the Senate finance committee has been investigating the possibility of collusive behavior among the GSEDs, which he claims is common practice in public works auctions.

"There's something suspicious when there's one bank willing to buy at 11 percent and other buyers pricing it at 13 (percent)," he said. "Either they didn't know enough about the bonds or they had an agreement that they would all split the bonds at 11 percent."

Allegations of rigging in the auction of the 10-year zero coupon bonds either through manipulation by government officials or collusion by participants to favor a participant has cast doubt on the entire Treasury system, prompting industry leaders to rally behind the BTr.

In a recent statement, the Money Market Association of the Philippines (MART), made up of the country's government securities eligible dealers GSEDs, maintains that it "stands by the integrity of the government securities auction process." There are currently 38 financial institutions accredited by the BTr, 33 of which are banks.

Not a few in the sector believe that some politicians are simply eager to whip up a scandal to embarrass the Macapagal administration or, because of personal vendetta, to prevent the appointment of Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, whose sister Ma. Socorro Camacho-Reyes, is chair of CODE-NGO. The Senate finance committee's hearings on the PEACe bonds transaction only serve to taint the credibility of the entire market because of the way facts have been slanted to simulate an anomaly.

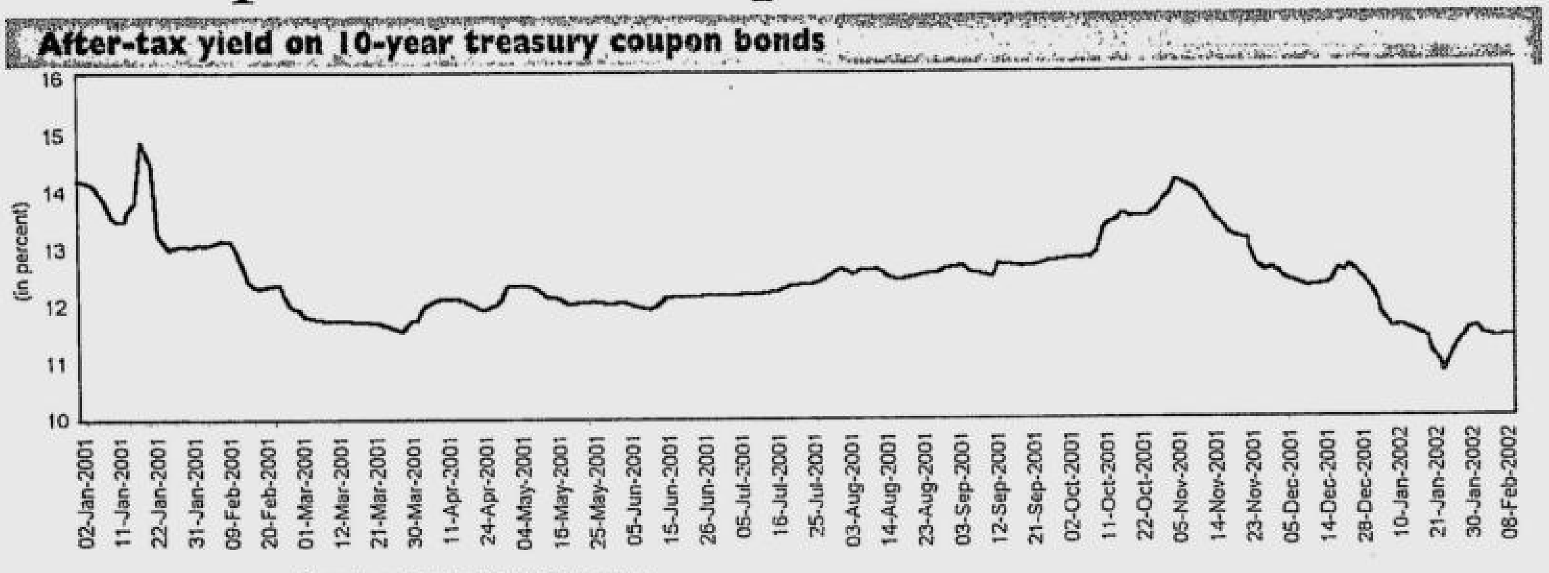
They say one need only make a post-auction analysis to ascertain the bidding was legitimate and the private transaction regarding the PEACe bonds "aboveboard." Three points are often made: One, the issue was four times oversubscribed; two, 45 bids were tendered by 15 GSEDs, five being foreign banks; and three, no one objected to the issuance. MART reports it has not received a single complaint on the Oct. 16 auction of 10-year zero coupon bonds from its members.

Compromise

Regardless of whether the bidding was actually rigged or not, however, some politicians and NGOs believe the result of the auction reflects a gross compromise of the government. CODE-NGO's windfall gain of P1.4 billion from the trade of PEACe bonds, they say, implied that the government was not able to minimize the country's borrowing cost.

"You can see that the market price was at 11 percent and not 13 percent because there was a ready, willing and able buyer at 11 percent. They (Treasury) should have gone around the banks and found the best possible deal. You are not supposed to look at some rate from Bloomberg," said Sen. Sergio Osmeña, referring to RCBC Capital's commitment in its underwriting contract to buy the 10-year zero-coupon bonds from CODE-NGO at that rate.

After-tax yield on 10-year treasury coupon bonds



*Based on Bloomberg's MART1 series.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza, a former treasurer of the Metrobank and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), maintains however that the 11-percent rate paid referred to was an agreement between two private entities and hence a secondary market transaction. The BTr deals only with the primary market comprising mainly of GSEDs, which act as wholesalers of government securities.

"At the end of the day, the proof of whether a rate is correct is the auction. That is why we said we should go into an auction. That is why we insisted. Because if that rate is true, then we would have seen someone or at least all the market bidders bid at that level (11 percent)," Edeza said.

The BTr states the government actually saved P3 billion in interest payments since the prevailing secondary market rate for 10-year treasury coupon bonds (based on Bloomberg's MART 1 series, which GSEDs use as their benchmark) was 16.93 percent when the auction was conducted.

To make this rate comparable with zero coupon bonds, accounting for the 20-percent final withholding tax and the present value of the coupon payments translates to a rate of 14.14 percent. Even pricing in the liquidity reserve feature gives a yield of 13.64 percent, Treasury officials said, which is almost 900 basis points higher than the winning bid of 12.75 percent paid for by RCBC.

Treasurer's role

Edeza added that a bank treasurer always prices the liquidity reserve feature mindful of the fact that this value could easily be eroded by actions of monetary authorities. The BSP, for instance, has already cut the liquidity reserve requirement twice, bringing down to the current ratio of 7 percent of deposits and deposit substitutes. At the time of the zero coupon bonds auction, the requirement for secondary reserves was at a high of 11 percent.

Still, some groups contend the Treasury should have rejected the bids because the gap between the purchase price (12.75 percent) and the price of the bond in the secondary market price (11 percent) was too wide.

"Instead of using 14.14-percent interest rate as the benchmark, the Treasury should have aimed for an amount closer to 9 percent—the going yield of financial assets that are eligible to be used as bank reserves mandated by the BSP," said the Freedom From Debt Coalition in a position paper.

The group further claimed that because of the tax exemptions, foregone tax could amount to as much as P1.44 billion, which they compute as the present value of a 20-percent tax applied on the zero coupon bonds, while the bond issuance could only add to the country's debt burden.

Treasury officials say that this latter argument is not correct since the yield that the BTr got on the bonds was much lower than the prevailing market rate on a net-to-net basis. "The 12.75 percent is net of tax already, and if you compare that with the net rate of a regular bond which is 13.5 percent net (16.93 percent less 20 percent withholding tax), it's nearly a full percentage point. So didn't we save money there? Didn't we collect our taxes effectively?" Edeza argued.

The BTr added that the auction of the 10-year zero coupon bonds, consistent with Finance Secretary Camacho's vow to introduce novel instruments to the domestic market, was already part of the existing borrowing program to cover its operating expenses and debt service and did not mean further debts of the national government. Sources say the public coffers were also quite lean then as program loans were not entering the country and government had to depend bond floats.

Questions

The discourse will continue and there will be valid points made on all sides. But if one stripped the debate to the core, one will see that, in truth, only one basic question needs to be answered to settle the issue. The speculation will continue as long as one thing remains unexplained—the unusually large profits of CODE-NGO, what they did to deserve it, and the willingness of RCBC to give it away.

Corollary to this is to ask whether the rate committed by RCBC, at 11 percent, was the "true" market rate or not and if indeed it was, why this failed to surface despite an auction.

Given the apparent absence of any major irregularity in the bidding for the issues underlying the PEACe bonds, the missing piece of the puzzle lies mainly with the financial institutions that allowed the NGO such large trading margins in the first place.

Some things desperately need to be clarified now by these companies. Why, barring pure altruism, would RCBC and RCBC Capital turn over roughly P1.4 billion to an NGO? Why would they forge an underwriting agreement allowing the latter to earn huge profits without shelling out any cash? Why, when the Treasury decided on an auction, did they not simply walk away and keep their money?

Under the negotiated deal CODE-NGO and its financial advisers were pursuing in March, the answer comes easy. In that context, the RCBC group would not only have sole access to the issue that it could sell down or place in its bank's reserves, yielding much more (15 to 15.5 percent) than what other reserve eligible instruments could offer (then about 8 to 9 percent), but it would have bought them at a reasonable price as well (11 to 11.6 percent).

With all the eligibilities that the bank believed CODE-NGO could have gotten from the government (and did), this rate would have compared favorably with the prevailing market rate for ordinary 10-year Treasury bonds, then hovering at about 14.5 to 14.75 percent, or equivalent to a rate of well over 11.5 percent if the effects of the tax exemptions and reserve eligibilities are accounted.

Motivations

Given prevailing market conditions during the auction, however, the bank's motivations are much more difficult to surmise. The market rate for 10-year treasury coupon bonds was then beginning to approach 17 percent. Adjusted for the special eligibilities, the BTr said this translated to about 13 to 13.5 percent during the time, close to what other players in the market were bidding (which was reportedly within a range of 13.25 to 13.5 percent). In this scenario, RCBC Capital's commitment to bid 12.75 percent in behalf of CODE-NGO and then buy the same bonds at 11 percent seems much less easier to understand.

The conclusion that could be made at the outset is that RCBC, by tagging a higher price on the 10-year zero coupon bond (effectively, 11 percent), valued the instrument's reserve eligibility feature and its "other properties" much more highly than did other banks that bid for the issue.

When the PEACe bonds transaction was finished, the bond issues immediately went back to the vaults of RCBC. Only 10 percent (about P1.2 billion) of the issues had been sold to institutional investors, majority of which, reports say, comprise the insurance companies of the Yuchengco group, which also owns RCBC.

RCBC treasurer Jaime Panganiban says that contrary to what people might believe, the RCBC group did not buy at a loss in the PEACe bonds transaction and offers his reasons.

One, he says, is that they had "a fallback" in the form of bank reserves. "*Hindi palugi yan* because at that time, if you remember, the reserve requirement (yields of reserve eligible securities) was, I think about 7 percent, which means a 4-percentage-point difference (11 percent minus 7 percent). In other words, even if we didn't touch the issue and we just placed it in our reserves, we already have a 4-percent carry," he said.

Another is that the bank has thought of uses for the instruments among which are "principal-protected products" not found locally.

"I can create from these bonds a fund with a principal-protected product where your upside potential is unlimited and your worse return is 100 percent of your principal, because it's guaranteed by government, though we're not saying we have advanced product knowledge because these products you can easily find abroad," he says.

Panganiban adds that RCBC considered the present situation where most banks, because of a high NPL ratio, find themselves with a negative tax position. "The PEACe bonds, aren't they tax-exempt such that I have a tax enhancement on that?" he notes. The matter of treatment of income taxes is still being debated.

Windfall

At this point, the bank really does not need to do any explaining about losses regarding the PEACe bonds as interest rates have dropped drastically since November, leaving it with a treasure trove the same way banks that had bought other types of issues at a high rate are now making a virtual killing. In many ways, this is a lucky break for the bank's officials.

Claiming it expected interest rates and inflation rates to fall, Panganiban says the RCBC group simply took a calculated albeit risky gamble that paid off. "The thing is if we had not taken that risk, if someone had bid below our bid, CODE-NGO, even if it got all the rulings and exemptions, would have gotten nothing; RCBC would not have gotten anything. Isn't that fair?"

Given the many uses of the zero-coupon bonds that the bank claims, this still does not answer the question, however, of the willingness of RCBC officials to let CODE-NGO have the lion's share of the profit. All these benefits and even greater could have been enjoyed by the bank if it had simply bid on its own at the lower rate.

RCBC deigns to call the profits that accrued to CODE-NGO a donation. "We are not a charitable institution," Panganiban asserts. Moreover, treating the transaction as such, sources say, would make it liable to its stockholders and open to minority suits.

The answer apparently lies in the contract and CODE-NGO's insistence that they meet a P1-billion funding target. RCBC admits that it did not revalue the contract that it made in March, when prevailing bond market prices were lower, because it saw "no need to do so."

"We gave them that rate (about 11 percent) as a hurdle rate given that they deliver all that we asked for (the tax rulings and eligibilities); that was around March," Panganiban says. "When the decision to auction came, we looked at the market and saw it had not really changed by much so we said, okay, we can use this rate at the date of issue."

Sources note the RCBC group was locked in by their contract, but officials deny this, saying that they merely honored their commitment, implying they could have easily walked away and bid on their own if they wanted.

We had a contract that said we will buy from you at the secondary market if you can sell the bonds for us at 11 percent and that contract never specified if it is to be negotiated or bid out," Panganiban says. "It's not that we can't break our contract, but we had an underwriting commitment and this is how we treat our clients."

Market standards

He muses that they are actually strengthening market standard practices in investment banking. "Our business is based on trust. We'd like to think that we are setting the market practices in honoring commitments. To show the example of how an investment bank deals with its clients."

This is where the intangibles must have entered, observers note. It thus became a matter of accepting smaller profits, since the bank was not really losing from the deal anyway as RCBC simply had to switch assets in its vaults, in exchange for "goodwill."

Seen this way, rather than a public issue, it becomes a matter between the bank and its stockholders.

The PEACe bonds controversy will not yet reach an end as hearings in the Senate finance committee are scheduled to continue. From the debate that will surely follow, the issue will be threshed out even further. But the broad strokes already show the gray areas that need to be examined in the context of public governance such as the level of lobbying acceptable even if this be for a good cause and the point at which legitimate entrepreneurial activity becomes rent-seeking.

The good news is the vigilance that civil society has shown even toward its own members, and the steps, albeit halting, some arms of government have taken to defend systems that are transparent and fair.

With the P1.4 billion now in CODE-NGO's hands, they face severe public pressure to use the money well, and while it is a private fund, the public nature of its creation has made it just as accountable.

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Borrowing proceeds are earmarked to help the government reduce its large budget deficit, estimated to reach P130 billion this year. *Reuters*

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SUCCESS STORY

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The 24-year-old psychology graduate of De La Salle University knew something about operating a business—coming from a family that owned and operated the Goto King and Mama Rosa restaurants—but she wanted something outside the family business.

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"I looked at the market, and I saw that there was no local manufacturer or producer of high-quality body care and bath products. The only products we can find are those by the imported companies, such as Marks and Spencer or Body Shop, and the products were very expensive. You would think twice before buying," Asense said.

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"I did not have weekends, and there are days when I sleep at 4 a.m. or 5 a.m. because I keep thinking about what products to develop or what the label should look like. My mind was always working," Asense said.

On to a good thing

She may not have had any prior study, but she knew exactly what she wanted—a line of body care products that could compete head-on with the products of foreign companies because of the high quality of the product and affordable prices.

Her instincts told her she was on to a good thing.

Asense said she wanted to show even to Filipinos what high-quality products we could do if only we set our minds to it and be consistent about following the same standards for every batch of products day in and day out.

Given her furious pace, the idea she hatched in February resulted in the first ZenZEst kiosk at the SM Megamall. For the first few months, she would mix the scents herself, close the bottles and stick on the labels. Her Mom helped her by doing most of the accounting. But she said the late nights, the tension and the worries were all worth it.

ZenZest initially specialized in handcrafted soaps made from all-natural ingredients, but the line expanded to include a wide selection of fragrances, lotions, body scrubs, massage and aromatherapy oils, bath and ambience items and bath scrubs.

The body care products were formulated for both men and women, and the scents were carefully chosen to appeal to all ages, from children to grandparents. She said everything from the ingredients to the final packaging and containers were carefully chosen to make them look and feel high class.

A challenge

"My aunts and my mother were my critics. They tested the products and gave their comments. From there I finalized the product line," she said.

Asense said there was an immediate response among Filipino buyers who were looking for a cheaper alternative, but not among foreigners, especially those who still thought that Filipinos did not put a premium on maintaining quality.

"There was this foreigner who came to the store and bluntly said that Filipino products are mediocre. I took it up as a dare. I told her to buy the product and if she does not feel satisfied, she could take it back and I will pay her double for what she paid for," Asense said.

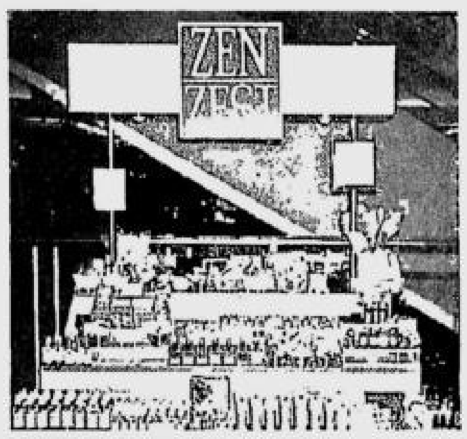
The foreigner did go back, but only to buy more products.

"It was an inspiration for me, and when she came back I knew for sure that we were producing the right products. I thought it proved that Filipinos do know about quality and we also have to change that perception ourselves," she stressed.

From the first kiosk at SM Megamall, ZenZest has opened four more at the SM City North Edsa, SM Makati, SM Sucat, SM Bacoor and NCC Davao. There are plans to put up the first store by the end of the year, and add new products every three months.

But just when things started to really look up for Asense and ZenZest, she was dealt another blow, and just like the first time she responded by putting up another business.

Her Mom jokes that at the rate Michelle is going, she must go through at least three more heartaches and she can afford to buy a house at Dasmariñas Village.



ZENZEST's kiosk network has expanded to five in less than a year due to its high quality yet affordable products.

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Former Vice Chief
Navy of India

Sachio Semmoto
Chairman and CEO
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"I did not have weekends, and there are days when I sleep at 4 a.m. or 5 a.m. because I keep thinking about what products to develop or what the label should look like. My mind was always working," Asense said.

On to a good thing

She may not have had any prior study, but she knew exactly what she wanted—a line of body care products that could compete head-on with the products of foreign companies because of the high quality of the product and affordable prices.

Her instincts told her she was on to a good thing.

Asense said she wanted to show even to Filipinos what high-quality products we could do if only we set our minds to it and be consistent about following the same standards for every batch of products day in and day out.

Given her furious pace, the idea she hatched in February resulted in the first ZenZEst kiosk at the SM Megamall. For the first few months, she would mix the scents herself, close the bottles and stick on the labels. Her Mom helped her by doing most of the accounting. But she said the late nights, the tension and the worries were all worth it.

ZenZest initially specialized in handcrafted soaps made from all-natural ingredients, but the line expanded to include a wide selection of fragrances, lotions, body scrubs, massage and aromatherapy oils, bath and ambience items and bath scrubs.

The body care products were formulated for both men and women, and the scents were carefully chosen to appeal to all ages, from children to grandparents. She said everything from the ingredients to the final packaging and containers were carefully chosen to make them look and feel high class.

A challenge

"My aunts and my mother were my critics. They tested the products and gave their comments. From there I finalized the product line," she said.

Asense said there was an immediate response among Filipino buyers who were looking for a cheaper alternative, but not among foreigners, especially those who still thought that Filipinos did not put a premium on maintaining quality.

"There was this foreigner who came to the store and bluntly said that Filipino products are mediocre. I took it up as a dare. I told her to buy the product and if she does not feel satisfied, she could take it back and I will pay her double for what she paid for," Asense said.

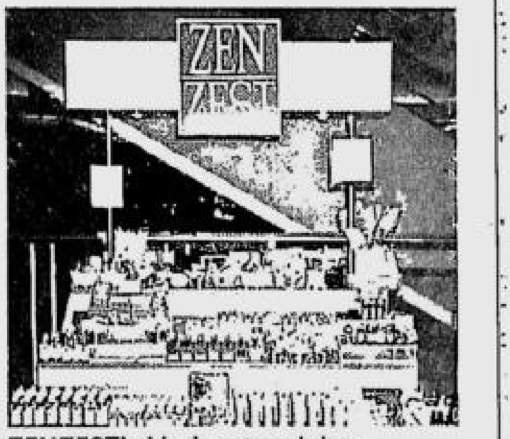
The foreigner did go back, but only to buy more products.

"It was an inspiration for me, and when she came back I knew for sure that we were producing the right products. I thought it proved that Filipinos do know about quality and we also have to change that perception ourselves," she stressed.

From the first kiosk at SM Megamall, ZenZest has opened four more at the SM City North Edsa, SM Makati, SM Sucat, SM Bacoor and NCC Davao. There are plans to put up the first store by the end of the year, and add new products every three months.

But just when things started to really look up for Asense and ZenZest, she was dealt another blow, and just like the first time she responded by putting up another business.

Her Mom jokes that at the rate Michelle is going, she must go through at least three more heartaches and she can afford to buy a house at Dasmariñas Village.



ZENZEST's kiosk network has expanded to five in less than a year due to its high quality yet affordable products.

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More aid needed to meet poverty goal–World Bank

WASHINGTON—International aid may need to be more than doubled to meet a goal of cutting poverty in developing countries by half by 2015, the World Bank said Wednesday.

In addition to an aid boost of up to $60 billion a year, hitting the ambitious poverty-reduction target will require trade liberalization by rich nations and structural reforms in emerging markets, the Washington-based lender said.

The bank said it was important that developing countries implement political and financial reforms, in addition to improving health and education, to ensure the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals are reached.

International aid, which currently averages $57 billion a year, would need to be boosted by $40 billion to $60 billion a year to achieve the poverty goal.

"These numbers show that without additional resources we will not meet the development goals," James Wolfensohn, the bank's president, said in a statement. "They also underscore why success lies in a partnership of action between developing countries and rich countries."

On Tuesday, Wolfenshon called on rich countries to double their financial aid to developing nations.

While the bank called for more aid, US Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill called for better coordination on the part of rich economies, nongovernment organizations and international lenders.

Speaking at an aid conference in Washington, O'Neill repeated his view that more aid should be in the form of grants rather than loans, which he said adds to the debt burden of developing countries and "drives them into the ditch."

"Out of our own in coordination, we've made them all hostage to charity," O'Neill said.

The bank echoed O'Neill's call for better coordination, stressing that lenders and developing countries should work together to determine how aid can be best put to use in reducing poverty.

"If aid goes to countries with poor policies and institutions, it is likely to be wasted," Shanta Decarajan, chief economist for the Bank's Human Development Network, said in a statement.

In addition to providing financial aid, the bank said rich economies could contribute to reducing poverty by lowering trade barriers.

In some countries, however, aid has to be directed to improving the infrastructure for trade, transportation and telecommunications in order for the economy to enjoy the benefits of freer trade, the lender said.

The bank estimated that providing universal primary education by 2015 would require from $10 billion to $15 billion more in aid per year and that reaching health goals would cost from $20 billion to $25 billion more. ***Reuters***

445M people online worldwide; 27% in US

NEW YORK—Some 445 million people were using the Internet at the end of 2001, with 27 percent of those in the United States, a market research group said Wednesday.

The report by eMarketer analyzes data collected by some 100 other research firms and government surveys.

In the United States, the report identifies 15 estimates for the size of the US online population in 2001, ranging from NetValue's 82.7 million to a high of 142.8 million, as announced by the Department of Commerce.

"The problem with these raw numbers," said eMarketer's CEO Geoff Ramsey, "is that they're all over the map. Each researcher uses different definitions and methodologies."

EMarketer calculated that the US total, after correcting for duplication in some surveys, was 119 million. It predicts the total will be 165.5 million US users by 2004, or 23 percent of the global total. ***AFP***

THE WORLD, a cruise ship with a difference. REUTERS

For the super-rich, ocean liner is a 'World' of luxury

TRONDHEIM, Norway—Fabulously wealthy? Love to travel but hate trading the comforts of home for the headaches of tourism? If so, then your ship has at long last come in: The planet's first-ever private luxury ocean liner, "The World," is your oyster.

Longer than a football field, heavier than an aircraft carrier and staffed by a crew of more than 300 to cater to every whim, The World sets sail March 6 from this northern Norwegian port on its maiden voyage carrying a group of multimillionaires, the vessel's first "residents."

"The big difference between this boat and other passenger boats is that on those boats, people are on vacation," Ola Harsheim, the ship's top officer who thus bears the immodest title "Captain of The World," explained to AFP.

"On this boat, they will live with a different lifestyle, which has been tailor-made for them."

Constructed near Trondheim by the Norwegian ship builder Fosen, The World measures 194.7 meters in length, 22 meters in height, 30 meters in width and weighs 43.5 tons—heavier than, for example, France's nuclear-powered aircraft carrier Charles de Gaulle.

But it is the unrivalled dimensions of luxury living on the high seas offered aboard the ship, opened to journalists here Wednesday, that set The World in a class of its own among ocean liners.

The vessel houses 110 luxury apartments for sale to private owners at prices ranging from $2.2 million to $7.5 million and in sizes ranging from 102 square meters to 301 sq.m.

These private "apartments," of which 80 have already been sold, include a sea view, private terraces fitted with jacuzzis, fully equipped kitchens—a first for cruise ships, according to the owners—and round-the-clock room service.

Stepping outside their homes, owners have a choice of leisure options, including two swimming pools, four restaurants, a gourmet grocery store, a tennis court, a discotheque, a book store, a mini-golf course and a helicopter pad to facilitate ship-to-shore comings and goings.

And The World's maritime luxury is ensured by a staff of 320, including physicians, massage therapists, firefighters, security agents and entertainers. ***AFP***

Cellular phone makers in no rush to merge handset operations

CANNES, France—Although there has been no great shakeout in the mobile phone industry—with Japan's Sony and Sweden's Ericsson the only two big players to merge their handset operations—there is plenty of activity going on behind the scenes.

The industry has just endured the worst year in its brief history, with sales falling for the first time in 2001. But as Ronald Garriques, general manager of products at Motorola's mobile phone division, argues: "Nobody is merging because they're all clinging on with their fingernails, hoping to swing it until the market picks up."

Outsourcing, however, has been a popular move. Philips board member Arthur van der Poel, responsible for the Dutch electronics giant's cell phone division, said Wednesday that his company had abandoned its quest for a partner after last year, outsourcing the unit's entire manufacturing and development to the specialist China Electronic Corp. in Beijing.

Philips itself may be a small player lacking economies of scale, but its Chinese manufacturing partner can produce for many different companies.

"The economies of scale will have to come from the activities of our Chinese partner. Our business brings just 5.5 million phones to them. But if they can get 5 million more from someone else and 10 million from yet another, then they will get sufficient scale. And it's working out well," he told Reuters in an interview here.

Philips hasn't been the only one outsourcing production. Sony Ericsson is no longer producing its own phones, Alcatel is outsourcing to Singapore-based Flextronics, while others such as Siemens and Nokia also have part of their phones produced somewhere else.

Outsourcing is tearing up the old model, where one phone maker was in control of the entire process, from helping to set the specifications of the chip all the way to the software, production and marketing of the final product.

This development has been driven by the characteristics common to any electronics industry, where most of the added value is in the components and the software, as opposed to its casing and packaging, Van der Poel said. ***Reuters***

TIB
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Message to Taishan Partners, Associates and Employees

Congratulations, partners! It has been exactly one year since the Referral Program was launched on February 12, 2001.

The year 2001 was an eventful year for our company, Taishan Insurance Brokers Philippines, Inc. (TIB) as well as for our product provider, Philam Plans, Inc. (PPI). For one, it was in 2001 when PPI reached the P1B mark. I take pride in saying that TIB's Referral Program produced approximately 10% of that amount in a short period of nine months.

For our company, last year marked the opening of our Cebu, Davao and Baguio offices. During my visits to these places and other parts of the Philippines I have, once again, come to the realization that our country's most valuable and bountiful resource is not our natural resources, but our very people. I experienced the exalting feeling of seeing people helping people—our associates sharing Taishan's noble mission and touching the lives of our brothers and sisters.

As we look forward to the year ahead, let us once again be reminded of our mission to help alleviate poverty in the Philippines. Our goal is to instill in every Filipino the value of planning for our future and working hard to be able to live our dreams today! Godspeed, partners. **A fantastic and joyous first year Anniversary to all of you!**

Paterno M. Obsuna
General Manager
Taishan Insurance Brokers Philippines, Inc.

Taishan Insurance Brokers Philippines, Inc. (TIB) is a wholly owned subsidiary of Jerneh Asia Berhad, a publicly listed company in Malaysia. Jerneh Asia Berhad is a member of the **Kuok Group of Companies**, known to the general public for its 38 Shangri-la Hotels.

Since its registration with the Securities and Exchange Commission in August 1995, TIB has unfailingly served its affiliates and the insuring public through direct brokering of insurance, employee benefits, financial planning and risk management consultancy. **Its vision is to alleviate poverty in the Philippines by creating more financially independent individuals.**

In February 1999, TIB signed a Memorandum of Agreement with **Philam Plans, Inc.** wherein Philam Plans engaged TIB's services in selling pre-need plans. Philam Plans is a member of the American International Group (AIG).

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Message to all Taishan Associates and Employees

Partnering with Taishan to distribute pre-need products is one of the most auspicious moves we made in recent years. Aside from finding a business partner, we gained a lot of insight and learning in distributing our products through approaches that are beyond the traditional. The process was even made easier by Taishan's solid reputation as a financial service provider with a broad market reach.

The growth in business that Taishan brought has exceeded our internal production targets and our general expectations.

As you celebrate the first year of the **Referral Program**, we have nothing but the best of wishes that you continue doing the right things right the first time.

Let us keep in mind that, as we go about doing our own tasks, we are in the process of instilling in the minds of fellow Filipinos the need to plan for one's financial future. Let us preserve the synergy that we have established. Let us not be content with just being a year older. Let us be wiser as we grow older.

Happy Anniversary!

Eliseo P. Dizon
President and Chief Executive Officer
Philam Plans, Inc.

Have you thought about your future lately?

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US pensions giant exits RP, 3 other markets

PEOPLE line up to enter a court building in Argentina to file lawsuits against state-decreed banking curbs. Depositors are demanding their savings back in their original currency after they were frozen in December to prevent savers from withdrawing their money en masse, something that would have destroyed Argentina's financial system. REUTERS

SINGAPORE—The United States' largest pension fund, Calpers, said yesterday that it would sell its assets in Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines and Malaysia because those countries supposedly failed new investing criteria, including human rights and labor practices.

The move pushed Thai shares and the baht lower and helped send Malaysian shares down on Thursday despite a strong Wednesday rally in US shares. Thailand's finance minister defended his country's human rights record and said other foreign funds were likely to stay.

The announcement had an immediate ripple in Southeast Asian markets. Stocks fell in the Philippines, Thailand and Malaysia, where analysts believed Calpers had the most money. Malaysia accounted for 4.6 percent of the IFCI Index.

The Thai baht and Philippine peso were also hurt by the news, with the baht down 0.18 percent from late Wednesday's levels at 43.74 and the peso at 51.29, down 0.01 percent from Wednesday.

Indonesian markets merely blinked at the news. The country has long been considered a pariah among major investors.

Analysts played down the longer-term significance of the move by the California Public Employees' Retirement System, which managed around $151 billion in assets, noting the fund's equity investments in the region were relatively small. But they said the impact would be deeper should other US pension funds begin to follow suit.

"While this may not be a precedent, it may get other people thinking that way," said Mark Matthews, chief strategist for Asia-Pacific at Standard & Poor's in Singapore.

Analysts hesitated to estimate how much US public pension funds held in Asian assets, but a March 2001 report in a US pension journal said the 1,000 largest US pension funds had $5 trillion in total assets. If just one percent of this total was invested in Asian assets, that would be $50 billion.

"From the perspective of the Southeast Asian markets, the main implication (of the move) is that because Calpers is such a large fund, people do watch what they do. Their absence from these markets does raise the cost of capital," said Christopher Gee, head of equity strategy at ING Barings in Singapore.

Calpers said the move to adopt the new measures that examined social issues such as human rights, transparency, political stability and labor laws in addition to the usual financial ones affected around $1 billion in emerging market holdings.

Analysts estimated Calpers had around $80 million invested in Malaysian, Indonesian, Thai and Philippine stocks, judging from the S&P IFCI Index which is a widely used benchmark for emerging market investors. This would be a drop in the combined market capitalization of these markets of around $194 billion. *Reuters*

BOJ chief dissatisfied with zero-rate policy

TOKYO—Bank of Japan Governor Masaru Hayami said on Thursday he was not pleased that the central bank has had to keep interest rates near zero when this has had such little effect on boosting growth.

Hayami said the BOJ has kept rates very low, despite the side effects of such a policy, to support Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's efforts to structurally reform the world's second largest economy and end a decade of stagnation.

"We are supporting the Koizumi government's structural reform policy from the monetary policy side so that the reforms generate positive private sector activity and make our unprecedented monetary easing more effective," Hayami said at a meeting of the Lower House budget committee.

"We are definitely not satisfied with this situation."

Hayami was responding to questions by an opposition party lawmaker who was critical of economic distortions that a zero interest rate could create.

Hayami's comments come at a sensitive time for Japanese policymakers.

The government has been stepping up calls for the BOJ to ease monetary policy further as it compiles a policy package to tackle deflation and banks' massive bad-loan problems, which are feeding on each other.

The deadline for the package coincides with the next BOJ Policy Board meeting on Feb. 28.

A meeting between Hayami and Koizumi on Tuesday has fanned speculation that the BOJ could further ease policy at the Feb. 28 meeting in return for decisive government measures, including the use of public funds to shore up weak banks.

The BOJ cut its official discount rate to 0.5 percent in 1995 and has continued to ease monetary policy. Short-term money market interest rates are now virtually zero.

About a year ago, the central bank adopted a so-called quantitative easing policy, in which it supplies huge amounts of liquidity to the money market in the hope that the excess funds in the system would be used by banks to increase new lendings.

But undersubscriptions at recent money market operations are seen as proof that not even interest-free money is inducing demand for funds among banks.

A zero-rate policy, Hayami said, had some undesirable side effects such as allowing unviable companies to survive, lowering interest income for households and reducing attractive investment options for institutional investors. *Reuters*

More firms open books as Enron fallout widens

WASHINGTON—A growing number of US companies, including blue chips like General Electric and IBM, are stepping forward with more detailed financial information as part of an effort to avert the kind of surprises that brought down Enron Corp.

Since the spectacular meltdown of Enron, once the seventh largest US corporation, numerous other firms have been scrutinized for potential accounting irregularities and others have come forward in an effort to be more transparent.

General Electric, the world's largest corporation, said Wednesday it is offering "another layer of information" to investors and the public in its financial reports.

GE spokesperson David Frail told AFP the change is a matter of "our disclosure, not our accounting practices."

Frail said the improved disclosure began last year when Jeff Immelt took over as CEO, coincidentally when the Enron scandal broke.

"We started expanding our disclosure in September," he said.

"GE is a transparent company but we felt we could provide more information, the concerns about accounting issues coincided with some of the things we're doing. We were asked to provide investors with more information, and we're happy to provide it."

The company will now provide revenue and operating profit figures for 26 businesses, from both GE's industrial units and its GE Capital unit. Previously, the company reported 12 business segments in its annual report.

Meanwhile, the Wall Street Journal reported that IBM would start releasing more detailed accounts in response to recent criticism of its financial reporting methods.

IBM's move comes days after a report in the New York Times questioned the company's accounting methods. *AFP*

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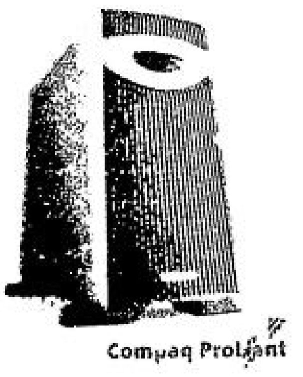

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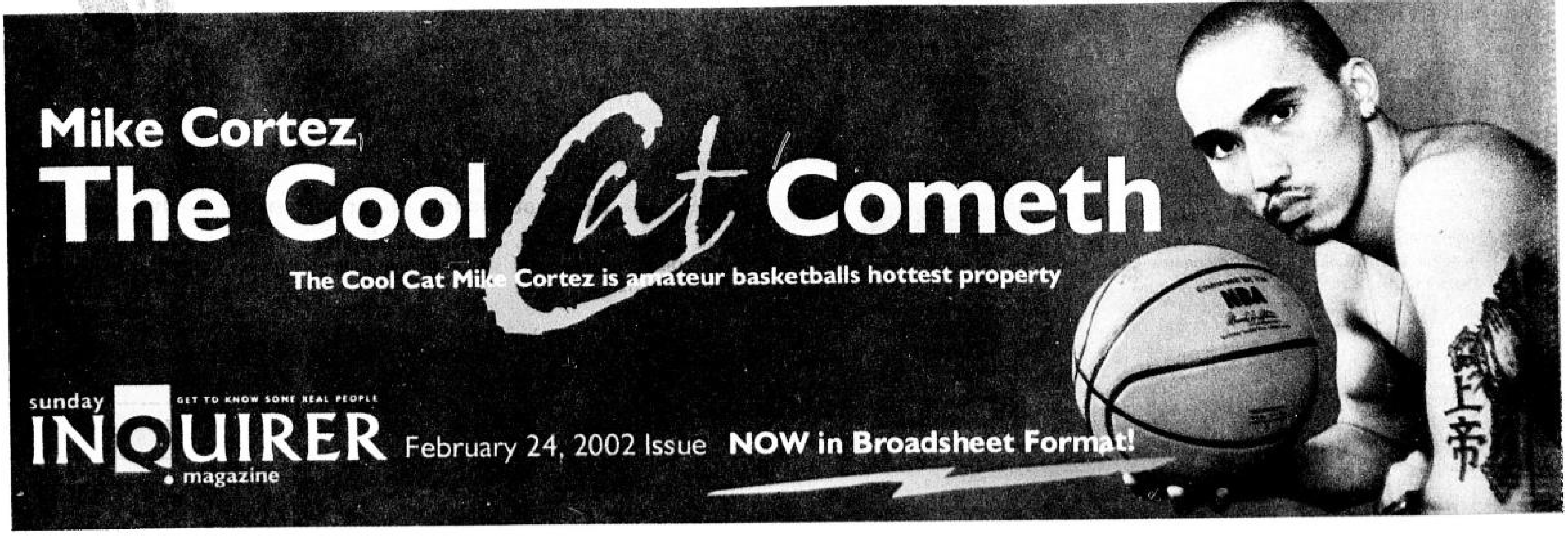
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ENROLL AT C3 NETWORK Learn MS Office, Corel, Adobe, Web & Animation Unit 27, #80 Masikap St., QC
★ 926-6304 / 0917-7918952★

• LIGHT-5268216 OR 70 •

HOUSEHOLD

FLOOR SANDING

JL Flr Sand serv 4102824

HOUSEHOLD JOBS

• A-1 MAIDS 8330946/47

IDEAL MAIDS PROV'L 4934583

BEST MAIDS 912-4701•9124706

BestMaids4111593/7419082

Direct Maid Yaya Boy 7572089

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

HOUSEHOLD

HOUSEHOLD JOBS

Help Agency 532-1947 • 532-8376

LOW RATE AGENCY 9288862

Maids Boy Drivers4141135/3664375

MAIDS•2594067•2590869

MAIDSw/NBI 4216053

NURSE•Midwife•Oldsitter•Yaya 8720265•7722353•8712372

Prov'l MAID YAYA COOK LABA BOY DRIVER 873-5062•873-7055

Yaya Maid Cook Laba 8533505

Yaya Maid Cook Laba 8429807

Yaya Maid Cook 8708799

LIPAT BAHAY

L-BAHAY 9206784 4540520

A-1 LIPAT BAHAY 4313975

CLOSE VAN 7327806 4/6W

LBAHAY 7113540

L-BAHAY 712-16-92

Lipat Bahay • 824-1227•

LIPAT MM / PROVL•4342613•

CARPET CLEANING

Sofa Shampooing 820-7068

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMML/RESDL

MARIKINA

450m^2 Ind'l Valley Ideal Pre-School 634-1212

HOUSE & LOT

MAKATI

Magallanes Vill. 852-6918

MARIKINA

1511m^2 Ipil St., with Pool Near S-Mall 6M • 634-1212

Grnlnd bnew 3br 2M 9487112

Rush! Calumpang LA 293 2BR+1TB 0917-5282174

MUNTINLUPA

Ayala Alabang 900m^2/700m^2 /500sqm Neg 0917-5282174

PASIG

5BR +Fam Rm Den Mds&Drl Rms 3½CR w/Jacuzzi+BTub
Jap Grdn Greenwoods
DBO Only • 640-9405

★VVerde5 • 0916-3375943★

QUEZON CITY

240m^2 Lot Bung 3BR2TB Rights only P650T neg Sandigan 291-1871/932-2199

KAMUNING NEW 4BR 3T/B 180m^2 P6.5M #141 K-2nd St. Tel. 724-2629 • 410-7619

L411m^2 D.Tuazon SMH QC
2sty 9281469, 0919-4024987

L624m^2 SFDM QC whse 2sty
4bdrm w/office • 928-1469

PROJ. 2 B'NEW 3STY 4B/R 5T /B P4M #29MARANG ST 4348186

PROJ. 2 B'NEW B'FUL 3STY 3B/R 4T/B P4M #49 KUBILI ST TEL 434-8186 • 724-2629

Proj 4 up/down 2BR 2TB 1carGarage 0916-3862982

SIKATUNA VILL. B'New B'ful 3Sty #13 Mapagkumbaba P12M Bung. #9 Malipid St., 10.5M 3Sty 119 Malimtiman 10.5M Tel 434-8054, 724-2629

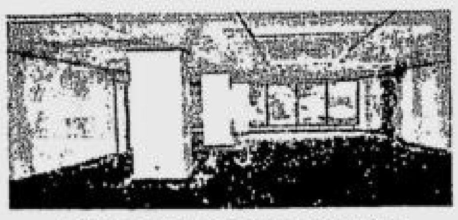
RIZAL

Bentley Park Subd LA108 FA100 3br2tb 09178174547

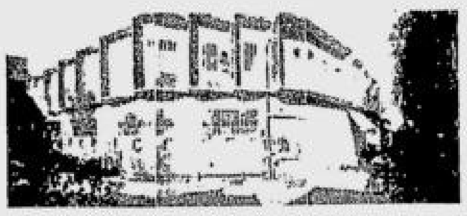
REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMML/RESDL

PROPERTIES FOR SALE / FOR RENT



604 sq.m. OFFICE SPACE
located at Ground floor Molave Bldg.,
2231 Pasong Tamo Street, Makati City



8,140 sq.m. OFFICE/WHSE
located at Bayan-Bayanan Ave.,
Concepcion I, Marikina City

OFFICE SPACE

5TH FLOOR ELECTRA HOUSE
Esteban St., Legaspi Village, Makati City
Floor Area: 893 sq.m.

UNIT T10 3RD FLOOR SUNVAR PLAZA BLDG.
Sunvar Plaza Bldg., cor. Pasay Road, Amorsolo St., Makati City
Floor Area: 59 sq.m.

2ND FLOOR MOLAVE BLDG.
2231 Pasong tamo St., Makati City
Floor Area: 397.86 sq.m.

2ND FLOOR MAMPLASAN
Mamplasan, Biñan, Laguna
Floor Area: 480 sq.m.

VACANT LOT

LIPA BATANGAS
Bo. Lodlod, Lipa City
Lot Area: 10,000 sq.m.

CALAMBA LAGUNA
Lakeview Subdivision, Brgy. Halang, Calamba, Laguna
Lot Area: 500 sq.m.

RESIDENTIAL

UNIT 1107 MCS TOWER
Makati Cinema Square Tower, Pasong Tamo, Makati City
Floor Area: 155.70 sq.m.

For more details, please contact Ms. Edith Gener at Tel Nos. 8437671 / 8178211 8161384 / 8438204 Fax. No. 8438206 Mondays to Friday 9:00A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

HOUSE & LOT

SAN JUAN

6BR Pool LA975 681-2457
Garden 6Pkg corner

PROVINCIAL

•Rush Sale Bung.•
Nr. C-Hall Naga City 642-8310

OTHER AREAS

RUSH!CanyonWoods Btngas 6.5M 09185052638

LOT

QUEZON CITY

★ FERNDALE QC ★
Ayala Res Lots now available
204-290m^2 @ P9,500-P12,160
Pay 20%(In 2 mo.)Bal 5 yrs
Mo. Inst. Few Lots Only
w/Complete Facilities RUSH!
9319117; 9319160 T.Banez

L480 Mayon St. QC Comml
Neg. SMH • 928-1469

PROVINCIAL

Landing, Pilar Bataan 2,800m^2 (047) 237-2318 / 237-4054 Totoy

MONTEBELLO
Along Maguyam Road
Via Carmona, Cavite
PRE-SELLING
Residential Lot for Sale
@ Discounted Price
Tel. 635-8108 / 636-0111 - 14
Look for Dante
Brokers / Agents Welcome

OTHER AREAS

243SM LOT, MOLINO ROAD MOLINO, BACOOR, CAVITE Near McDonalds, Jollibee Mercury Drug & RFC P2.43M •Tel 8230087/(0917)5272166•

Ciudad Real, SJDM BUL-292m^2 Call: Tel: 8903461 to 69 loc 34

CONDO/TWNHSE/ APT

LAS PINAS

BFR 1.6M 3BR 2TB 8428853

MAKATI

C5 Nr The Fort 988T
10T/mo. or 3Yrs No Int. or
10% D.P. LIPAT AGAD!
Call 0917-8169849 • 148176984

CCB 34m^2 1BTB 5612024 Au 800K

MANILA

Providence Tower Malate Studio Type 0917-5282174

CONDO/TWNHSE/ APT

MANILA

NR LA SALLE TAFT
VITO CRUZ MLA BNew/
Twnhse/4stry/3br/3tb/grge
P2.695M up 8903461 loc 34

Only Univ. Belt Condo 850T Up 8T/mo. Pay DP Lipat Agad 5758367 7341083 0919-2176735

MANDALUYONG

VARIOUS WACK' CONDO
Low Price 534-6610 • Jojo

WACK' MANSION STUDIO 1.5M w/parking, Furn 6337601- 03

PASAY

1BR 46sm FURNISHD P3.1M
Antel Seaview Towers
Roxas Blvd-bsd Hyatt Hotel
•Tel 8230087/(0917)5272166•

PASIG

Renaissance 1BR • 681-2457 2-3BR Also Available Rush

Valle Verde 3BR Attic
Pkg Pool P7M Up • 681-2457

QUEZON CITY

Brand New Town Hses 640-8448

Brand New Townhouse, Sally
930-7979 • 0916-3375943

Cubao Condo P1.3M 10% D.P.
9132224 ; 9124428 ; 4381480

EASTWOOD 2BR W/PARKING Ready 4 Occ P4.5M 6337601-03

EASTWOOD 2BR W/PARKING Ready 4 Occ P4.5M 6337601-03

Kentwd Hts Twnhse 5.6M 3BR 412-1825 /0917-7914366

SALE/RENT 2-3BR TERMS AFFORDABLE T414-0573

TandangSora 3br+1md 2tb P2.5M DBO 0917-8143702

T'HSE CUBAO QC Nr.AliMall FA: 111.20m^2 P2.5M Neg 5639101 5639089 5631719 09202210269

MEMORIAL LOT

HIM PILIPINO Mausoleum 9125847 Txt 09178991581

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

KALOOCAN

Bung nr MCU P5T 364-7831

FARM/FISHPEN

FARM/FISHPEN

FOR SALE

Fishpond for sale covering 133.2584 hectares with a fishpond lease agreement no. 425 located at Barrio Salhag, Rosario, Northern Samar, ask for details from:

Ms. Sally F. Bañga
Davao City
Tel. No. (085) 221-1140

Ms. Arlynn A. Torres
Makati City
Tel. No. (02) 817-0784/893-0487

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

MANDALUYONG

1BR Wack' Royal Mansion FF Fully Aircon Tel Le Philip Tan 813-2621

QUEZON CITY

2Stry 11-14th Avenue Murphy Tel 912-1218 near Mkt Alimall 8T

3BR2TB / Park Qmart7240429

SAN JUAN

NICE 2BR PARKING 631-6397

HOUSE

MAKATI

SANLO DUPLEX 5268048

MANILA

#1881 Ma. Orosa Up Only
Malate • 823-0725

PARANAQUE

MGV Pque 2sty 5BR4TB w/phone 8445449 CP09195646815 Didi

PASIG

V.Verde 5BR 5TB P60T 9299835

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

2-BR EGI Condo nr Shopwise. Look for Vivian 896-1321

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

2BR New Mkt Condo 15T 8905750 • 0917-8103866

RITZ TOWERS B2202
6745 Ayala Ave. Makati City FA263m^2 3BR 2 park spaces For inquiries pls call Clarise
373-2849 / 372-1478

Semi Furnished 2 Bedroom at Rockwell Direct Only call 532-3291 • 533-9225

MANDALUYONG

CTL Pioneer 1BR P8T 929-9835

PARAGON PLAZA FF 1BRPkg 9122304 TXT 09178991581

PASIG

VV6 1BR+Den Nicely Interior 17T 412-1825 / 0917-7914366

SAN JUAN

G'HILLS 1BR 5268048

FOR LEASE

L2472m^2 Barangka Marikina 4 Lease VLot P86T 928-1469

LOAN & MORTGAGE

2% w/o TAKING CAR 3670169

CAR SANGLA • INSTANT!
WHILE -U- WAIT
924-1254 • 925-9121 • 926-4160
We Also Buy Used Cars

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Learn about Gems and Jewelry
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The GIA Graduate Gemologist Diploma; the most recognized gemological credential
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Tel: (662) 237-9575 to 77 Fax: (662) 236-9829
giathai@ksc15.th.com www.giathailand.com

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

BUSINESS RENTAL

524 EDSA KAL 3FLRS 3612663

MALATE OFFICES 5268048

QUEZON AVENUE
1468 Quezon Avenue QC
(nr National Bookstore)
2nd Floor Room 201 80.50m^2 P25,222 & Room 202 50.43m P16,698 (good for SMALL FIRMS) For inquiries pls call Clarise 3732849•3721478

STRATA 2000 250m^2 Ortigas P50T(neg) other sizes/loc 2420922

WHOLE 4TH FLR 396 SQM P75,000/MO. UMC BLDG. 900 UN AVE NR LRT 521-1114

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

BMW

97 BMW 316I 7280473 Rush

TOYOTA

'91 Crla 4Dr FD
VNice 8907183/91

91 GL Corolla 0917-3998866

HEAVY EQUIPMENT/ TRANSPORT

5x10x55x85KVA Gen.3672002

Executive Aircraft Beechcraft Baron B55 Fax (02)850-9018 for information

Kubota 4x4 P55T up 3610215

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

L3•Cars• 9273453 4538295

Bnew Van 8254058 8261045

Vans Coaster Bus 913-9123

CAR/VAN 046-4349593 CVT

HiAce, L300 9296250

IT/HIACE 9136710/4333682

L300 T7411356

L300/Vans 578-8917(Roger)

MARIAN 8955627
CARS CSTER VANS BRDAL

MB HiAce Starex L3 8257135

MB100 Hiace MM/Prov 4342613

MB100 Van 6437397, 6393957

SELF-DRIVE
New CARS/VANS-ALL BRANDS
ABC 5368822/3039789

STAREX L300 CARS 7268388

WANTED TO BUY

BUYING USED CARS 8990215

GERRY BUY CARS 9266660

CAR LOAN

1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 3677523/24

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
OFFICE OF A NOTARY PUBLIC
FOR THE CITY OF MANILA

PHILIPPINE SAVINGS BANK,
Mortgagee,

-versus- FOR: Foreclosure of Real Estate Mortgage under Act No. 3135 as amended

Sps. MANGODA ALIP TAGORANAO
and OMAIRA HAMID TAGORANAO,
Mortgagors.
x--x
FREM Case No. 01-12-71

NOTICE OF SALE

Upon extra-judicial petition for sale under Act 3135, as amended by Act 4118 filed by **PHILIPPINE SAVINGS BANK**, mortgagee, against the mortgagors, **Sps. MANGODA ALIP TAGORANAO** and **OMAIRA HAMID TAGORANAO**, with address at No. 3581 Magsaysay Arellano Street, Bacoor Sta. Mesa, Manila, to satisfy the mortgaged indebtedness, in the total amount of **FOUR MILLION ONE HUNDRED SIXTY NINE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED SEVENTY SEVEN PESOS AND 71/100 (P4,169,977.71)** as of September 15, 2001, including principal, interest, penalty charges and attorney's fees but not including all legal fees and expenses for the foreclosure and sale, the undersigned Notary Public for the City of Manila will sell at PUBLIC AUCTION to the highest bidder, FOR CASH and in Philippine Currency, on *March 18, 2002 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning* or soon thereafter, *in front of the main entrance of the City Hall Building, Manila, facing Philippine Normal University*, the following described real estate property, together with all the buildings and improvements existing thereon, to wit:

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE
No. 235921

"A PARCEL OF LAND (Lot 42, Block 1 of the subdivision plan Psd-23058, being a portion of Lot 3-J-3-B of the subdivision plan: Psd-20550, G.L.R.O. Rec. No. 7680), situated in the District of Sampaloc, City of Manila. Bounded on the NW., by Lot 41 Block 1 of the subdivision plan; on the NE., by Lot 3-J-1-A of plan Psd-20615; on the SE., by Lot 43, Block 1 of the subdivision plan; on the SW. by Street Lot 2 of the subdivision plan. Beginning xxx containing an area of TWO HUNDRED FORTY FIVE SQUARE METERS AND SEVENTY SQUARE DECIMETERS (245.70), more or less."

Including the house/building and other improvements now erected or hereafter may be erected on the foregoing described torrens titles.

This Notice of Sale will be posted for a period of twenty (20) days in three (3) of the most conspicuous public places where the subject property is located and in the City of Manila where the sale shall take place, and likewise, a copy will be published in the Philippine Daily Inquirer, a newspaper of general circulation in the City of Manila, once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks before the date of auction sale.

Prospective bidders or buyers are hereby enjoined to investigate for themselves the title to the property and the encumbrances thereon, if there be any.

City of Manila; January 31, 2002.

ULPIANO S. MADAMBA
Notary Public
Until December 31, 2003
PTR No. 0969420
Issued at Manila City
On January 08, 2002
IBP O.R. No. 545563
On January 08, 2002
Issued at Manila City

WARNING:

It is absolutely prohibited to remove, deface or destroy this Notice of Sale, on or before the date of the auction sale under penalty of the law.

COPY FURNISHED:

1. ATTY. SYLVIA M. MARFIL
   Room 2114, Herrera Tower
   98 Herrera Corner Valero Streets, Ayala North, City of Makati
2. SPS. MANGODA ALIP TAGORANAO
   and OMAIRA HAMID TAGORANAO
   No. 3581 Magsaysay Arellano Street, Bacoor, Sta. Mesa, Manila

(PDI - Feb. 8, 15 & 22, 2002)

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CAR LOAN

2% w/o Taking Car 8966633

2% w/o taking car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 3732083

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 3646928

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

FURNITURE

YAMAHA PIANOS
Grand & Upright T7213124

PETS

DACHSHUND PUP 4354575

DOG TRAINER 09192050952

DOG TRAINER 4528681

LOVELY PERSIAN KITTENS F-6T/M-5.5T 0917-5373436

ROTT 3mos.BIG 12T 4183694

SPORTING GOODS

Billiards P30/33/36/38 A1
Qlty-Bnew 8020566/8014494

Imported Billiard 22T, 35T Complete Acc's. 8618714/16 8613123 / 8613125

New Billiard P18.5T P22T P25T Ok C.Card 781-9453

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

WANTED TO BUY

ANY ROLEX
Buy / Sell / Pawn / Repair
Tel# 804-0484 • 834-2886

B/SELL FUL PD EDUC PLAN 7137284•09177939632

Buying HP/Canon/Lexmark
EMPTY INKJET CARTRIDGES
P100-P250each FREE pick-up
Call 8171430 (Makati)
4251549 (Quezon City)
09178480612•09198289230

BUYING ROLEX
others, High Price CASH CALL 09178142309/7269687

Buy/Sell Ready 2Use HS & College Educl Plan 8061574

Buy/Pawn Diamonds T834-2886

WE BUY ROLEX
5633742 5646593 09174383744

MISCELLANEOUS

Warehouse Frames Used Rolled UP Door Steel Bars/Pipe 0468521399

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

Wanted Taxi Driver 6353503

FEMALE

SECRETARY
22-28 yrs. old coll. grad. comp. Lit w/ exp. call 637-7527

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

FEMALE

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING BY AN ACCTG FIRM (2)FEMALE COMPUTER ENCODER G. MASANGKAY NEAR COR. BAMBANG STA. CRUZ 2553083

WANTED ACCOUNTANTS; B.S. MKTG.; ARCHITECT & OFFICE ENGINEER
All female with experienced 4 Angeles City of a Realty Co.
Tel. (045) 887-4142 to 46
724-7057 • 724-6735 Manila

MALE/FEMALE

CARE GIVER T5280747

CLERK/CASHIER COLL. LEV/GRAD 18-45 Y.O. DIMPLE 0919-2722920

DIRECT HIRE OFF. STAFF 9134470 START ASAP ROSCO

★OFC STAFF 9134470 Aya★

Ofc Staff 18-45yrs old w/ w/out exp Start ASAP 9134470 Anton

OFF STAFF 913-4470 JELLY

OFFICESTAFF 9134470 AL

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

Free Tax Seminar 4568634

L&M MAXCO
Triple A Contractor
NEEDS SUBCONTRACTORS
Suppliers visit us at
5/F Fortune Office Building
160 Legaspi St., Legaspi Village, Makati City

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Bo. Kapitolyo 125m² Office or Shop Call 634-1212

Globe 9% Smart 11% 745-9351

PUBLIC NOTICES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

FOOD COURT W/TIANGGE
Bldg under construction now!
Exactly across crowded LTO/LTFRB gates 4T/8T/mo.
Hurry limited stalls
9257212/4251549/ 09178480612

HOMEBASE TRAVEL BIZ w/o CAP 404-1418• 530-0965• 0919-2906996 esptravel2002@yahoo.com

Infant Kid, Teen, Adult Wear Inventory Sale 3738021

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of the late TERNORA P. ROJAS executed affidavit of adjudication by sole heir of estate of deceased person dated Feb. 13, 2002 as per Doc#313 Page63 Book 24 Series of 2002 Acknowledged before notay public JOEL G. GORDOLA of Quezon City PDI 2/15,22 3/1,02

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late MENELAO MERCADO has been settled extrajudicially among his heirs per Doc 6 Page 2 Book II Series of 2002 Before Notary public Atty. Guillermo R. Viojan PTR 2847003 PDI 2/8,15,22,02

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late MATEO CARLOS Y MIJOS has been extra-judicially settled among his heirs under Doc. No. 495, Page No. 100. Book No. XII, Series of 2001, by Notary Public, Eustacio V. Flores, Pateros. Metro Manila *(PDI-Feb. 15, 22, March 1. 2002)*

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is given on the loss of TCT119408 under the name of ANGELITA S. VILLAFUERTE (PDI - February 22, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Labor and Employment

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH CENTER

OSHC
North Avenue cor. Agham Rd., Diliman, Quezon City, ✆ 929-60-36 to 39
website: www.oshc.dole.gov.ph

NOTICE OF VACANT POSITIONS

a. **(1) Sr. Occupational Health Officer**
SG-20 (P17,799.00); RA1080; Doctor of Medicine; (2) years of relevant experience; (12) hrs. of relevant training.

b. **(1) Engineer III**
SG-19 (P16,792.00); RA1080; Bachelor's degree in Engineering relevant to the job; (2) years of relevant experience; (8) hours of relevant training;

c. **(1) Information System Analyst III**
SG-19 (P16,792.00); CS Professional; Bachelor's degree relevant to the job; (2) years of relevant experience; (8) hours of relevant training;

d. **(1) Occupational Health Officer**
SG-18 (P15,841.00); RA1080; Doctor of Medicine; training and experience not required.

e. **(3) Engineer II**
SG-16 (P14,098.00); RA 1080; Bachelor's degree in Engineering relevant to the job; (1) year of relevant experience; (4) hours of relevant training.

f. **(7) Industrial Hygienist III**
SG-16 (P14,098.00); CS Professional; Bachelor's degree in Engineering or Chemistry; (1) year of relevant experience; (4) hours of relevant training

g. **(2) Research Analyst I**
SG-11 (P10,535.00); CS- Professional; Bachelor's degree; training and experience not required.

h. **(1) Audio-Visual Aids Technician III**
SG-10 (P9,939.00); Equipment Technician (MC11 Cat. III); High School graduate or completion of relevant vocational/trade course; (2) years of relevant experience; (8) hours of relevant training; preferably with scriptwriting skills.

i. **(1) Bookkeeper**
SG-8 (P8,709.00); CS-Sub Professional; Completion of (2) years studies in college; (1) year of relevant experience; (4) hours of relevant training.

j. **(1) Assistant Industrial Hygienist**
SG-8 (P8,709.00); CS-Sub Prof.; Completion of (2) years studies in college; (1) year of relevant experience; (4) hours of relevant training.

k. **(3) Clerk III**
SG-6 (P7,606.00); CS-Sub Prof.; Completion of (2) years studies in college; training and experience not required.

l. **(2) Utility Worker II**
SG-3 (P6,039.00); MC 11 Cat. III, must be able to read and write; training and experience not required.

Requirements:
Comprehensive Resumé with 2x2 picture
CSC Eligibility / Board Rating
Transcript of Records - (cert. true copy)
Diploma - (cert. true copy)
Certificate of Trainings Attended (Include no. of hrs.)
Certificate of Employment (if applicable)

Note:
- incomplete requirements will not be processed
- no need to apply in person

Send Resumé to: The Office of the Executive Director, Occupational Safety and Health Center, North Ave. cor. Science Road., Diliman, Quezon City or through e-mail: oshcenter@oshc.dole.gov.ph. Deadline for submission is on 28 February 2002.

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

NOTICE SHARE OF STOCKS CERTIFICATE NO. 29246 2426 7221 16891 27972 34058 17659 OF AYALA CORP. ISSUED TO MANUEL V. HERRERA WERE LOST SOMETIMES IN 1990.

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE
PROVINCIAL GENERAL SERVICES OFFICE
Provincial Capitol, Dipolog City
Telefax Nos. (065) 212-3561 / 212-6492

INVITATION TO BID

The provincial government of Zamboanga del Norte thru the Provincial General Services Office is inviting interested parties to submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following Farm Machineries and Equipment:

1 unit Drilling Rig
  Specifications:
    Brand KATO
    Engine Honda Engine (8HP) with pumping set
    Pumping set :
      1 Honda Diesel Engine (10HP)
      1 4"dia. Centrifugal pump
      1 Steel base
      3 4"dia. Hose adaptor
      4 Hose clamp 4"dia.
      1 4"dia. 18" Rubber hose nipple
1 unit Rice Mill with Shed
  Specifications:
    SATAKE - 6 inches Engine driven Diesel Engine 23-25HP
    complete set of pully and belts shafting balb-bearing
1 unit Corn Mill with Shed
  Specifications:
    Engine Driven, Diesel fuel with complete with set accessories (Shafting pully, belts, balb bearing, cooling system) installation
1 unit Rice Thresher with complete accessories, Model: KRT
1 unit Corn sheller with complete accessories, Model: KCS
4 units Moisture Meter (For Palay and Corn), Model:SHEGA £££ (Naphire)
7 units Hand Tractor with trailer
  Specifications:
    1 Yanmar Diesel Engine (10HP)
    2 Cage wheel
    2 Pneumatic Tire
    1 Trailer assembly with tires
1 unit Farm Tractor
    New Holland with Econoshift transmission (big)
    Model TS-90 4WD with complete accessories and service parts
3 units Floating Tiller (Mud Boat)
    1 Yanmar Diesel Engine (10HP)
    1 Body assembly
    2 Cage wheel
15 units Knapsack Sprayer
  Specifications:
    Stainless tank
    16h. capacity with accessories
1 unit Rice Transplanters
1 unit Mechanical Seeder
3 units Power Sprayer
  Specifications:
    Honda Engine with complete accessories plus 100 meters of pressurized hose

All bids shall be accompanied with a Bid Security either in Cash, Manager's Check or Surety Bond from the GSIS in an amount equivalent to 5% of the total bid proposal but not to exceed Twenty Thousand (Php 20,000.00) Pesos and the following documents:

- Business Permit
- DTI Registration
- Appointment or Authority issued by Principal (if any)
- Authorized Representative with Specimen Signature
- Complete Brochures, Catalogues, Sketches of products offered

All bids must be submitted to the Provincial General Services Office on or before 10:00 o'clock in the morning of February 27, 2002 at which time and date, the same shall be opened in the presence of the members of the Provincial Local Awards Committee.

The government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to accept those which are found to be the most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **ERLINDA M. VIDAL**
Provincial Budget Officer
OIC - PGSO

Approved:

(Sgd.) **ISAGANI S. AMATONG**
Provincial Governor

(PDI - Feb. 22. 2002)

Republic of the Philippines

METROPOLITAN WATERWORKS AND SEWERAGE SYSTEM

Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City

INVITATION FOR QUALIFICATION AND BIDS

Date : 18 February 2002

1. The METROPOLITAN WATERWORKS AND SEWERAGE SYSTEM (MWSS) thru its West Zone Concessionaire, MAYNILAD WATER SERVICES INC., (MWSI) will undertake the Construction of Septage Treatment Plant and Rehabilitation/Upgrading of Existing Sewage Treatment Plant at Dagat Dagatan which will be financed in part by funds from IBRD Loan No. 4019 PH.
2. The MWSS hereinafter referred to as "the Employer" now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders from member countries of the World Bank for:

Contract No.	Project Description
MSSP-2	**Proposed Construction of Septage Treatment Plant and Rehabilitation / Upgrading of Existing Sewage Treatment Plant at Dagat Dagatan, Caloocan City, Metro Manila**

The work for this project shall include but is not limited to the supply of all labor, materials and equipment for the construction of the following:

2.1 Pilot Septage Treatment Plant
Scope includes site development works; construction of the Septage Treatment Plant structures including pumps, piping, electrics and mechanical works; construction of an alternative access; supply and installation of a telemetry system; power supply from the existing compound power system; upgrade of the existing WWTP potable water supply system; and other support facilities as described in the plans.

2.2 Pump Station Rehabilitation and Upgrading
Scope includes removal and replacement of pumps including associated piping; upgrading of mechanical and electrical facilities; upgrading of the screening system and appurtenances; inspection, testing and rehabilitation of the 750mmØ force main; construction of a new penstock; general site improvements; replacement of architectural finishes; upgrade of site drainage; upgrade of operator facilities; construction of a monorail lifting system; improvements in the plumbing system; supply and installation of a stand by generator set; and other facilities as described in the plans.

2.3 Wastewater Treatment Plant Rehabilitation and Upgrade
Scope includes the refurbishment of the inter-lagoon pipework; modification of the lagoons operating conditions including provision of new appurtenances; supply and installation of new floating aerators including electrics and control; rehabilitation of lagoons structure including desludging; upgrade of electrical works; general site improvements; and other facilities as described in the plans.

3. Interested eligible contractors may obtain further information and secure the qualification and bid documents at the following address:

CONTRACTS MANAGEMENT TECHNICAL
PROGRAM MANAGEMENT DIV.
MAYNILAD WATER SERVICES, INC.
2nd Floor, Engineering Bldg., MWSI Office
MWSS Compd., Katipunan Rd., Balara, Q.C., Phil.

4. A complete set of qualification and bid documents may be purchased by any interested eligible bidder from the above address starting **26 February 2002** upon submission of a letter of intent and payment of a non-refundable fee of TEN THOUSAND PESOS (P10,000.00) or its equivalent of US $200.00. Request submitted by mail should include a Manager's Cheque in the amount and currency indicated above (including US $ 100 for mailing) in favor of Maynilad Water Services, Inc. (MWSI). The MWSI will promptly dispatch the documents by air courier, but under no circumstances will it be held responsible for late delivery or loss of the documents mailed to the applicant.
5. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of at least P6,000,000.00 in the form of a certified check, a letter of credit, or a bank guarantee from a reputable banking institution selected by the bidders and located in any eligible country.
6. Interested bidders will be required to submit their accomplished qualification documents and bid proposal at the same time.
7. The accomplished qualification documents and bid proposal must be submitted on or before **30 April 2002** at the address below.

THE CHAIRMAN, PBAC
Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System
Ground Floor, MWSS Deputy Administrator's Office
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City

Late bids will not be accepted. The official time shall be based on the bundy clock located at the MWSS PBAC Secretariat Office.

The qualification submittals and the bid proposal will be opened promptly thereafter; after which post evaluation of qualification of bidders and other submittals will be conducted.

8. All affiliated companies of MWSI are disqualified from seeking qualification. Affiliated companies are those which the concessionaires exercise control of voting stocks or which operate with them as part of a system or enterprise. They shall include, but not limited to those corporations in which the concessionaires have substantial interest.

(Sgd.) **ORLANDO C. HONDRADE**
Administrator

(PDI--Feb. 22. 2002)

PHILIPPINE TOURISM AUTHORITY

MANILA

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY/ APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The PTA hereby invites interested parties to pre-qualify/ apply for eligibility and to bid for the Design and Construction of a Light and Sound Museum of Philippine History at Sta. Lucia Street in Intramuros, Manila.

Interested parties must be a Producer in tie-up or in joint-venture with a Contractor who has produced and constructed a similar project, or has substantial experience in undertaking projects of similar scale. The total cost of project is estimated at Seventy Million Pesos (P70,000,000.00).

The Contractor required for the project must possess a PCAB License with Category AAA or Large B in Building while the Producer must have ample experience in the production of lights and sound, or related fields.

Pre-qualification/Eligibility Forms are available for issuance until the deadline of **March 6, 2002** at the BAC Secretariat, Room 621, 6th Floor, DOT Building, T.M. Kalaw Street, Ermita, Manila.

Submission of duly accomplished Pre-qualification/ Eligibility Statements for both the Producer and Contractor shall be on **March 13, 2002**.

Pre-qualified parties shall be issued Terms of Reference, location Plans and Tender Documents on **April 1-3, 2002** for a non-refundable fee of P3,500.00.

Submission of the A&E Design for the Building, Design for the production of the Light and Sound Museum and Bid Proposal for the project shall be at **10:00 AM** on **May 2, 2002**. Opening of bid proposal will follow at **2:00 PM** at the PTA Training Room, #513, 5th Floor, DOT Building, T.M. Kalaw Street, Ermita, Manila.

The government reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any minor defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the government. The PTA shall issue the Notice to Proceed to the winning bidder, upon issuance by the Department of Finance of a notice for the Department of Tourism to enter into and take possession of the aforementioned property and conveyance by the President of the Republic of the Philippines of said property to the DOT.

(Sgd.) **ADEL L. ORIONDO**
BAC Chairman

(PDI -- Feb. 22, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Sarangani
Municipality of Glan
OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL TREASURER

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Government of the Municipality of Glan, Sarangani Province invite bidders for the furnishing of the delivery of Glan, Sarangani Province within 30 working days from receipt of the award:

Trucks (12 units) - Isuzu Double Cab

Specifications:
- 4 wheeler
- Completely Built Unit (CBU)
- Reconditioned, Japan made
- With aircon
- With AM/FM Stereo

Date/Time		Schedule of Activities/Venue
March 6, 2002	5:00 PM	Deadline submission Letter of Intent
March 7, 2002	3:00 PM	Pre-qualification/ABC Hall
March 8, 2002	9:00 AM	Opening of Bids/ABC Hall

Terms and Conditions:
- brand new tires
- brand new batteries
- fully painted with lettering
- with jack and tire wrench
- with one (1) year Free LTO registration
- with one (1) year TPL insurance
- with complete customs paper
- guarantee for availability spare parts
- give warranty after sales service

Bids should be specific, items, price quoted shall be in accordance with the quantity as specified above. Please state unit and total of bid.

Envelope containing bids shall be sealed and plainly marked "PROPOSAL" for the furnishing of the above item to be opened on **March 8, 2002** at 9:00 a.m. and addressed to the Chairman, Committee on Awards. Bids shall be accompanied by proposal bond in the form of cash, certified check or surety bond in the sum of Five Percent (5%) the amount of bid.

The Municipality of Glan, Sarangani reserves the right to confiscate the bond, if the bidder refuses to accept awards or fails to comply with the conditions of the bid. The right is also reserved to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality hereof or to accept such bids as may be considered most advantageous to the Municipal government. Bidders or their authorized representatives are invited to be present at the time stated above when bids are opened.

A liquidated damage in the amount of one-tenth (1/10) of one percent (1%) of the total value of the contract shall be deducted for each day of delay.

A liquidated damage in the amount of one-tenth (1/10) of one percent of the total value of the undelivered portion shall be deducted for each day of delay, if the contract has been partially filled.

(Sgd.) **RANULFO C. OMEGA**
Municipal Treasurer

(PDI - Feb. 22 Mar 1 & 5. 2002)

National Power Corporation

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND BID

AD NO. PD-2002-03

One (1) year Term Contract for Local Forwarding Services (door to door delivery of various NPC cargoes from NPC designated pick-up points within Metro Manila for delivery to various plant and project sites within the country) from March 15, 2002 to February 15, 2003 with the following schedule.

	Pre-Bid/Time	Bid Opening/Time
Schedule I - Air	**February 27, 2002** 2:00 PM	**March 7, 2002** 2:00 PM
Schedule II - Sea	**February 28, 2002** 2:00 PM	**March 8, 2002** 2:00 PM

Interested parties are invited to apply for eligibility and to submit sealed bids on the above to be opened publicly at the Sampaguita Room, Ground Floor, Building 2, NPC-OBC, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

Eligibility forms and bidding documents are available on **February 22, 2002** upon payment of P50.00 which is non-refundable. Last day of issuance of eligibility and bidding documents is on **February 28, 2002.**

Issuance of eligibility forms and bidding documents morning's only, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. For inquiries please call telephone no. **921-2574.**

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation.

Materials Management Department
NPC-OBC (Head Office)
Diliman, Quezon City

(PDI - Feb 22 2002)

PNOC-ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, M.M.
Telephone No. 893-1320, loc. 5126, Fax (632) 840-1461

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION/ ELIGIBILITY AND BIDDING

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) invites contractors classified by and registered with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) as **Category B** or **IAC Medium Sub-Category A** in Electrical Works or General Building—Building and Industrial Plant to apply for prequalification/ eligibility and if subsequently found eligible, to bid for the following:

1) **SUPPLY, DELIVERY, INSTALLATION, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF THE ALBAY RURAL ELECTRIFICATION PROJECT STAGE III (10 BARANGAYS) - EDC 02-024**
2) **SUPPLY, DELIVERY, INSTALLATION, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF THE LEYTE RURAL ELECTRIFICATION PROJECT STAGE VIII (14 BARANGAYS) -EDC 02-025**

The work calls for the supply of minor materials, labor, supervision, equipment, tools, consumables and other services necessary to provide electrical power supply to the Ten (10) Barangays located in the towns of Daraga, Ligao, Oas and Pio Duran at Albay and Fourteen (14) Barangays situated in the towns of Buraen, La Paz, Mahaplag and Tanauan at Leyte.

The prequalification/eligibility forms may be secured from the Contracts Administration Group (c/o Raymond A. Sison for Albay and Lorena D. Avelino for Leyte) starting **February 21, 2002, 8:30 a.m.** to **5:00 p.m., Monday** to **Friday** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Hundred Pesos (P100.00) per document.

The prequalification/eligibility documents must be submitted to the Contracts Administration Group not later than **5:00 p.m.** of **March 8, 2002.**

Bid documents shall be issued to eligible contractors starting **March 18, 2002** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00) per document.

For purposes of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on **March 27, 2002, 2:30 p.m.** and **3:30 p.m.** respectively at PNOC-EDC's CAC Conference Room, Ground Floor, Building V at the above address. Site inspection will be scheduled during the Pre-bid Conference.

Sealed bids in three (3) sets shall be received by the Contracts Administration Group at the above address not later than **2:00 p.m.** of **April 18, 2002** and then publicly opened immediately thereafter.

PNOC-EDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, to accept such bids or to award any part of the work to any bidder whose bid is considered most advantageous to PNOC-EDC.

(Sgd.) **ESTER R. GUERZON**
Manager, Operations
Services Division

(PDI -- Feb. 22, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF LA UNION
City of San Fernando
PROVINCIAL BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

February 19, 2002

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND BID

The Provincial Committee on Bids and Awards invites accredited pharmaceuticals, drug manufacturers, and/or exclusive distributors or suppliers to apply for pre-qualification and if pre-qualified, to bid for the supply of drugs, medicines, medical surgical supplies, x-ray films, dental laboratory supplies and reagents for the use of the Provincial Government of La Union.

Protocol on the General Procedures and conditions for the pre-qualification and the conduct of bids, awards and procurement is available for issuance to prospective bidders at the Provincial Committee on Bids and Awards Secretariat, Office of the Governor, Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando (LU) from **February 20-27, 2002.**

Accreditation and issuance of proposal forms shall be **February 20-27, 2002** upon presentation of the documents specified in general procedure and upon payment of P300.00 for bid forms for each category.

The Pre-bidding Conference and the opening of bids will be held on **February 27** and **March 11-13, 2002**, respectively at 9:00 AM, Diego Silang Hall, Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando (LU).

The Provincial Bids and Awards Committee of the Province of La Union reserves the right to waive any defect and reject any or all proposals that may be deemed disadvantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **VICTOR F. ORTEGA**
Provincial Governor/Chairman
Committee on Bids and Awards

(PDI -- Feb. 22, 2002)

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*"Whosoever believes in Him shall not perish
but have everlasting life."*
John 3:16

BENJAMIN DE JESUS TIANGCO

*Died peacefully in the Grace of our Lord
on February 21, 2002 at the age of 76.*

His loving wife **ROSALINA**; children **RUEL** and **DITAS, BETH & EDDIE VISPERAS, DR. EDITH & CHARLIE** (†) **DELOS SANTOS, EDWIN & JUDITH**; sister **CORAZON**; grandchildren **RAYMOND, RONALD, RONALD, RHIA, CARLO, MICHAEL, MONICA, MARK, GILBERT, MELISSA, KATRINA** and other relatives and friends request the caring readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment to be announced later.

DANTE O. CASIBANG, SR.

Ex-Mayor, Rosales, Pangasinan

*Peacefully joined our Creator
on the 19th day of February, 2002, at the age of 69.*

His bereaved wife **VIOLETA YU CASIBANG**; children **CHIKEREE, DANNY** and **BABES, GLENN** and **DELIA, ROCCA, TEN-TEN** and **ROY, VIC** and **MINDA**; grandchildren **SABAS, KAYE, DIANE, DANTE IV, DANTE III, DONA, GLENN JR., BILL, ROMA, PAOLO, TRICIA, ARVIC, ARIES**; brothers and sisters, nephews and nieces and all his relatives, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Casibang residence in Carmen, Rosales, Pangasinan.

Interment will be on Wednesday, February 27, 2002.

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*"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened,
and I will give you rest."* Matthew 11:28

Jose Rene D. Sicangco, M.D.

*Joined his Creator and beloved parents
Alberto & Beatriz Sicangco,
and brother **Rey Pablo Sicangco**
on February 20, 2002 at the age of 54.*

His loving wife **Baby**; children **Chingkot** and **Tenten**; brothers and sisters **Delay, Nony & Jen, Be (Mariza), Tito & Welma, Penny & Sammy**; nieces and nephews, in-laws, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to wish him Godspeed on his journey to his true home.

His remains lie in state at the St. Jerome de Emiliani (near Alabang Town Center), Alabang, Muntinlupa City.

Interment will be on February 23, 2002, Saturday at the Loyola Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City after the 2:30 p.m. Mass.

DR. HERMELINDA ALFONSO ANOLIN, M.D.

UP College of Medicine, Class 1939

Peacefully joined our Lord on February 20, 2002 at the age of 87.

She is survived by her adopted daughter **Eva**; brothers **Leovigildo & Ernesto**; sister **Soledad A. Bugayong**; sisters-in-law **Consuelo Hernandez, Patria Vergara & Rosario Linco**; nephews, nieces, grandnephews and grandnieces.

Her remains lie in state at her residence in Sta. Maria, Pangasinan.

Interment will be announced at a later date.

MARIANO L. KING JR., M.D.

of
**25 Cedar Brook Drive,
Somerset, New Jersey, USA**

*Died in the Grace of our Lord
on January 25, 2002 at St. Peter's Medical Center
in New Brunswick, New Jersey.*

Dr. King was born in Pola, Oriental, Mindoro and migrated to the United States in 1966.

He graduated from the University of Santo Tomas College of Medicine in 1957.

He was a medical doctor on staff at St. Peter's University Hospital and was predeceased by his wife **Brenda Wenzel** in June of last year.

He is survived by a son **Philip Alexander** of Somerset, his sister and brother-in-law **Deanna** and **Rodolfo Natividad**, two nephews **Gerard** and **Roderick** all of Kendall Park, New Jersey and a niece **Marian** in Florence, Italy.

Entombment took place at St. Peter's Mausoleum in New Brunswick, New Jersey on January 28, 2002.

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

John 14:6

ISIDRO P. SOLAS

*Died in the Grace of our Lord
on February 19, 2002 at the age of 72.*

His loving wife **ERLINDA**; children **MINA, BRENDA & TOMMY, JOY & WEWEL, JANE & MIKE**, together with grandchildren **PATTY, CHAILA, BEA & GERLIN**; sister **EDNA & CESAR FORTUNATO**, relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Makati City.

Interment will be on February 24, 2002, Sunday, after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at the Loyola Memorial Chapels.

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Tels. 740-2683; 781-3705; 781-3688; 413-9400; 715-5594
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264 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City
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27th-Lacson St., Mandalagan, Bacolod City; Tel. 433-7132
RIZAL FUNERAL HOMES
438 Cementina St., Pasay City; Tels. 831-1204
Sucat Branch: 8187 Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque City
Tels. 826-1376; 826-9682; (0915) 712-1220
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Forbes Park, Makati City; Tel. Nos. 843-8838/30; Fax No. 843-9223
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WELINGTON FUNERAL SERVICES
1511 Gen. Luna St., Paco, Manila; Tels. 522-8846; 522-9438; 400-5394

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Informatics introduces 1st International pre-school in RP

INFORMATICS, the global leader in IT training and education, further expands its educational service to include Cambridge Child Development Centre, the first and only pre-school to offer internationally recognized child development programs in the Philippines.

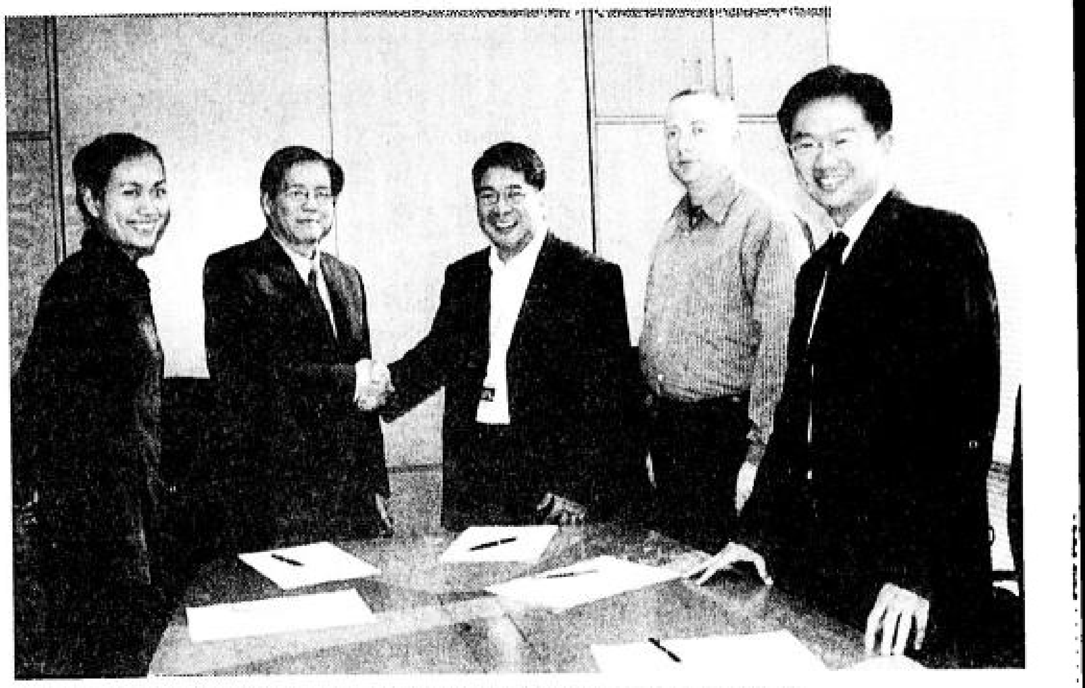
Established in Singapore in 1994, Cambridge is part of the award-winning Informatics Group certified by ISO 9002. With a curriculum developed in collaboration with the University of Melbourne, Cambridge has since then grown into a regionally successful chain of pre-schools.

Cambridge debuts in the Philippines to meet the strong demand for quality early learning schools. James McCarthy, general manager of Cambridge, said, "Cambridge Child Development Centre marks the establishment of international standards of child development in the country. Through proven teaching methods and a strong alliance with international educational institutions, Cambridge offers Filipino children a headstart in their learning path."

More than just a child-care center, Cambridge provides state-of-the-art child development and early learning programs for children aged 18 months to 6 years. As the only international pre-school in the Philippines, Cambridge offers a wide range of enrichment programs that are effective and excellent tools in the development of a child's cognitive, physical, emotional and social skills.

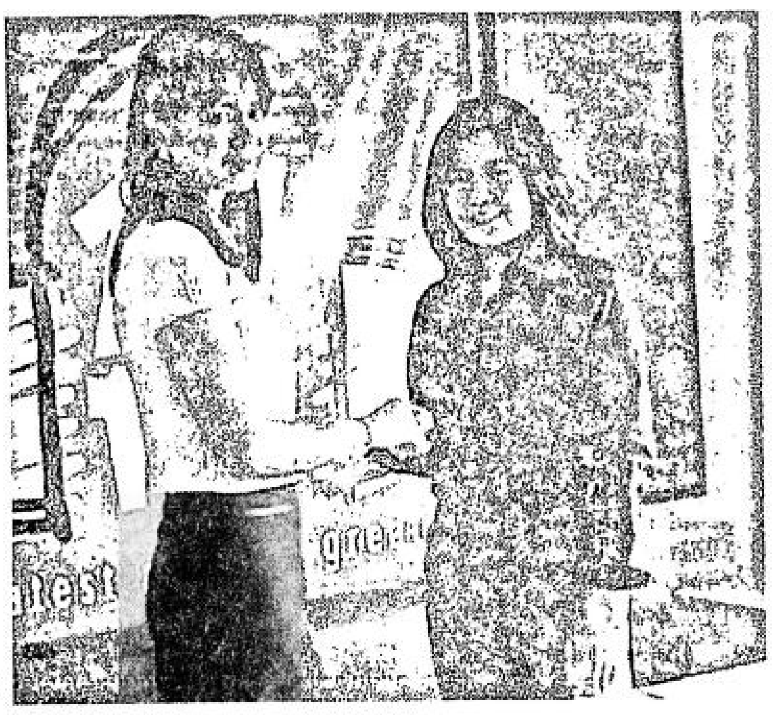
McCarthy adds, "Because Cambridge is an international child-care and educational institution, it is fully equipped to render nurtured and happy children, ready to be achievers in grade schools worldwide. Our goal is to develop every facet of the child, from their mastery of simple daily tasks up to increasing their intellectual and emotional quotient. Given the appropriate encouraging environment, we envision our children to be holistic, dynamic, and most of all aware of their full potential. With these, Cambridge children are assured of admission to top schools nationwide."

An integral new product of the award-winning Informatics Group, Cambridge Child Development Centre is set to become the leading, globally acclaimed child-care institution. Cambridge schools aim to prepare preschoolers for formal education by teaching vital skills for the children's future social and academic excellence. Cambridge also ensures that its non-academic programs promote the holistic development of the child. Working closely with the children's parents, the Cambridge formula is successful in providing children with a secure and loving environment where children can develop socially, emotionally, physically and intellectually.



NEW TENANT AT ROBINSONS SUMMIT CENTER

Robinsons Land Corp (RLC), one of the country's largest and most dynamic real estate companies, and PeopleSupport Inc., one of the country's first web-based customer care outsourcers and co-sourcers, recently entered into a lease agreement with the latter making Robinsons Summit Center on of its corporate offices. PeopleSupport will be joining the growing prestigious tenants of the Robinsons Summit Center, RLC's office condominium project along Ayala Avenue in Makati City. Shown during the contract signing were (from left) Maybelle V. Aragon, business development and control head, RLC-high-rise buildings division (HRBD), Danilo E. Ignacio, general manager of RLC-HRBD, Bong Borja, senior vice president for Asia-Pacific operations of PeopleSupport Inc., Dan Falherty, vice president for finance of PeopleSupport Inc., and David Leechiu, general manager for agency operations of FPDSavills Phils. Inc.



RJ 100 OFFICIAL RADIO OF EXPOS

Rajah Broadcasting Network Inc. (RJ 100) recently signed a contract of agreement with the Next Step Events Planner as the official radio station for Eskwela Expo 2002, the 1st School Supplies, Accessories and Apparel Expo to be held at SM Megatrade Hall 3, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City from May 17-19, and Gifts and Premiums, Business Gifts Promotional Ideas, Stationery, Toys and Premiums Expo from June 5 to 7 at the Grand Ballroom of Dusit Hotel in Makati City. Signing the contract are Bea Jacinto (left), executive vice president of RJ 100, and Annaliza Bacani Laxamana, managing director of The Next Step Events Planner.

Tuseran Forte supports Mercury Drug's Bantay Kalusugan

WITH THE cold season reaching its homestretch and unbearably hot spells threatening our archipelago with the advent of the El Niño phenomenon, Filipinos are constantly exposed to drastic weather changes, making them vulnerable to viruses and several other diseases.

Tuseran Forte Capsule, the cough medicine that can also relieve cough with colds, headache or fever, has anticipated many ailments that may arise during these crucial months by launching "Tuseran Forte Operation: Tigil Ubo" through Mercury Drug's Bantay Kalusugan program.

Tuseran Forte's Operation: Tigil Ubo offers free consultation to the public every Friday, 4 to 7 p.m. until March 22 in the following Mercury Drug branches: Gil Puyat Avenue in Makati, Sampaloc in España, Mayflower Plaza in Mandaluyong, Ever Gotesco in Commonwealth, Scout Borromeo in Quezon Avenue, Q-Plaza in Cainta, General Romulo in Araneta Center, Blumentritt in Avenida, Padre Faura in Ermita, and Kalookan in Monumento.

So, at the slightest sign of any ailment, just rush to any of the participating Mercury Drug branches and take advantage of this offer. You don't have to endure the discomforts of cough and its accompanying symptoms in the coming months. Tuseran Forte provides relief to your ubo, ubong may sipon, ubong may lagnat, at ubong may sakit ng ulo.

Love month special from Forest Grill

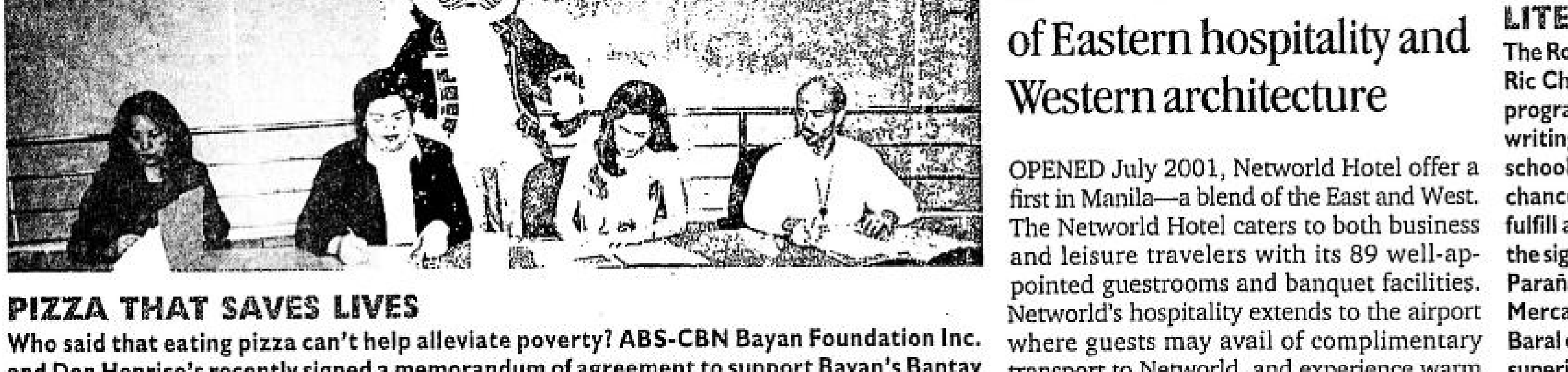
"FOOD is meant to tempt as well as nourish, and everything that can be eaten is seductive..." Love Birds, grilled marinated chicken with roasted corn salsa and sauted potato marbles. Meat is Lovely, herb garlic marinated beef tenderloin served with grilled vegetables and pork sauce. Seafood Treasure, fish kebabs and baked mussel on a bed of fried rice. All specials are served with soup and dessert, and each of these servings are good for two. Mouth watering specials that demonstrate that food is truly about sensuality.

Pana holds 2nd membership meeting

THE PHILIPPINE Association of National Advertisers (Pana) will be conducting its 2nd General Membership Meeting today, Feb. 22, 12 noon at the Davao Room of The Westin Philippine Plaza sponsored by Kadayawan sa Davao Foundation Inc. The meeting focuses on the topic "How to Effectively Spend Your Media Budget" in this economic condition. Confirmed speakers are Venus Navalta of McCann-Erickson Phils. and Lizelle Maralag of Starcom Worldwide Phils. Learn more by attending this general meeting. For inquiries, call the Pana office at 890-2989 to 91; 899-5671/91. Likewise, the Kadayawan sa Davao Foundation will present the activities slated on Aug. 22 to 25. Pana members are requested to wear red (optional).

LITERACY PROGRAM FOR OSYS

The Rotary Club of Parañaque Central, District 3830, headed by president Ric Chua together with DECS Parañaque Division launches a literacy program with the intent of giving out-of-school-youth the basic reading, writing and mathematics skills. This is a 150-hour study for 120 out-of-school-youth students. The purpose of this is to give these youth the chance to secure the elementary and high school diplomas for them to fulfill a key requirement for getting hired by companies. Shown during the signing of the memorandum of agreement between the Rotary Club of Parañaque Central and the DECS-Parañaque are Chua, directors Cayo Mercado and Rene Sarmiento, rotarian Ching Ibita and treasurer Pepe Baral of RCPC with DECS school superintendent Roland Magno, assistant superintendents Dr. Norma Adamos and Dr. Elena Jimenez.



PIZZA THAT SAVES LIVES

Who said that eating pizza can't help alleviate poverty? ABS-CBN Bayan Foundation Inc. and Don Henrico's recently signed a memorandum of agreement to support Bayan's Bantay Kinabukasan project. Helping is easy, for every order of selected Don Henrico's pizzas, P2 will be given to the Foundation. Shown during the signing (from left) is community and external relations manager of ABS-CBN Bayan Foundation Inc. Irma Cosico with Don Henrico's vice president for marketing Germaine Salvador, ABS-CBN Foundation Inc. managing director Gina Lopez, and Bayan executive director Reno Rayel.

Networld's blend of Eastern hospitality and Western architecture

OPENED July 2001, Networld Hotel offer a first in Manila—a blend of the East and West. The Networld Hotel caters to both business and leisure travelers with its 89 well-appointed guestrooms and banquet facilities. Networld's hospitality extends to the airport where guests may avail of complimentary transport to Networld, and experience warm and courteous reception from well-trained Japanese-speaking staff upon check-in.

Strategically located along the corner of Roxas Boulevard and Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, in the heart of Pasay City, the Hotel is accessible from the international and domestic airports. Moreover, it is a convenient drive to significant places of interest such as the US and Japanese embassies, the CCP Complex, Makati Commercial and Business District, the Philippine Trade and Training Center, and Central Bank. Popular tourist destinations such as the Rizal Park, Intramuros, Manila Zoo, the Metropolitan Museum, and the Malate dining and entertainment areas are also just a few minutes away from Networld Hotel.

This boutique hotel has full room amenities, which include a coffee and tea-making facility, a mini-bar and refrigerator, a safety deposit box, a colored TV with cable, a daily newspaper, and a telephone with IDD and NDD facility.

Some of the hotel's facilities are the Coffee Shop, the Café Sampaguita which serves Asian and international cuisine, the Ryoka Japanese Restaurant, SM Kenko Sauna and Massage, and the Plus One Karaoke and Jazmin Bar.

Networld Hotel also offers business center services, 24-hour room service, valet services, free parking, car rental options, foreign exchange, and a tour and travel agency.

For inquiries and reservations, call 536-5828 or 536-7777 local 102.

ST. MARY'S ANNUAL HOMECOMING

Batch '77 silver jubilarians of St. Mary's Academy of Caloocan City (formerly Our Lady of Grace Academy), shown above, will host the annual homecoming on Feb. 24. The event is envisioned to be a whole-day alumni fair featuring a food and dry goods bazaar, a medical mission, film showings, exhibits, cooking demos, and a host of other activities. Alumni association president Steffi Panganiban-Manhit calls on alumnae to join the committees and actively participate in the homecoming event. Call Jean Mastrales, alumni coordinator, at 363-2524 or 363-2525.

PLAY SPECIALIST RETURNS TO MANILA

'PLAYING by Heart' advocate Dr. Fred Donaldson (shown with kids), renowned play specialist, returns to Manila for another round of workshops and lectures on play therapy. 'Playing by Heart' aims to promote play as a new model of love, and trust as an alternative to violence and aggression. Lectures cover the topics: Play in the Education of Young Children; the Nature of Original Play; and Play and Aggression. The workshops are recommended for psychologists, psychiatrists, childcare professionals, teachers and health care professionals (including people working with cancer patients and psychiatric cases). 'Playing by Heart' workshops and lectures are scheduled in Olongapo (March 2), Davao (March 4 and 5), Legazpi, Albay (March 6 and 7), Manila (March 11) and Angeles, Pampanga (March 12). 'Playing by Heart' is co-presented by ABS-CBN Foundation's Bantay Bata 163 program and Philippine Airlines. For details, call Sarah Lausa at 929-0967, 927-7195 or 415-6627.

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**FOR EVERY PHP5,500
(VAT INCLUSIVE)
ON ALL PURCHASES!!
(EXCL. CIGARETTES)**

GUARANTEED FRESH
SUPERMANOK

PURefOODS Fresh Whole Chicken
VAT EXEMPT
P64
per kilo
Price available in Luzon including Pampanga & Batangas only.

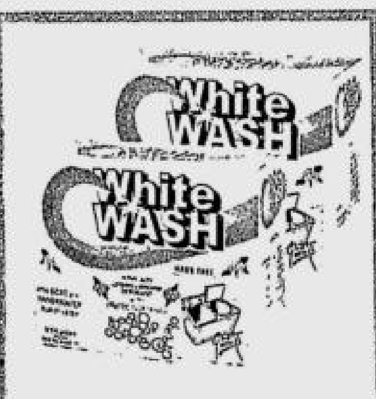
NIDO
FORTIFIED

NIDO Fortified Pre-Bio 1
450 G
VAT INCLUSIVE
P126.10
Price available in Luzon except Pampanga

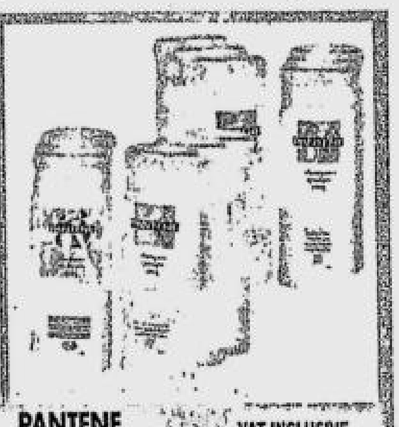
CENTURY Tuna Flakes
In Oil, Hot & Spicy
Assorted
180 G x 6's
VAT INCLUSIVE
P122
per pack
Price available in Luzon except Batangas & Pampanga

aro
SPECIAL SIOPAO

ARO Special Siopao
Asado, Bola-Bola
Adobo, 10's
VAT INCLUSIVE
P110
per pack


White WASH
White WASH

WHITEWASH Washing Machine Detergent
With Softener, 5 Kgs.
VAT INCLUSIVE
P14[illegible]



PANTENE Shampoo
Smooth & Silky/
Volume & Fullness/
Balanced Clean/Anti-Dandruff
200 mL. x 3
VAT INCLUSIVE
P45

CHEAPER BY THE CASE

3% SAVINGS

48 CANS
211 x 300
PUREFOODS
CORNED BEEF

PUREFOODS Corned Beef
210 G.

VAT INCLUSIVE
P1,909
per box, 48's
P39.77 per can

CORNED BEEF

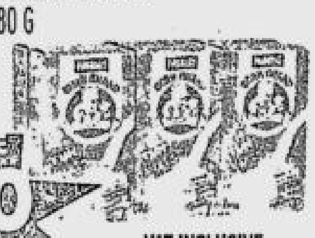
VAT INCLUSIVE
P123 P41 per can
per pack, 3's

3% SAVINGS

The ideal family
60 x 180g
BEST BEFORE END

BEAR BRAND Filled Milk
180 G

VAT INCLUSIVE
P1,680
per box, 60's
P28 per 180 G



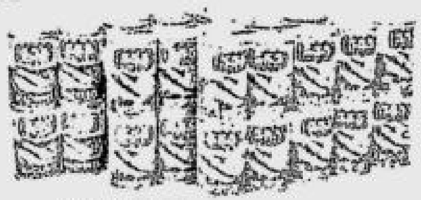
VAT INCLUSIVE
P171
per pack, 6's
P28.50 per 180 G

3% SAVINGS

555
155 Gms.(50s.)
SARDINES
IN TOMATO SAUCE/CHILI
100 CANS
Sagana Sa SARSA Kay Sarap Ng LASA
SARDINES
IN TOMATO SAUCE

555 Sardines
Chili/Tomato Sauce
155 G.

VAT INCLUSIVE
P752
per box, 100's
P7.52 per can



VAT INCLUSIVE
P77.50 P7.75 per can
per 10's

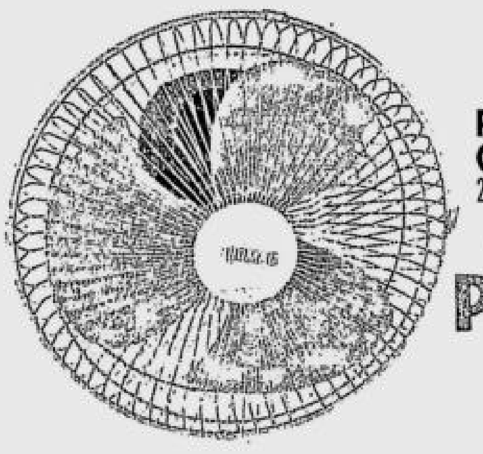
San Miguel
LIGHT

SAN MIGUEL Beer in Cans
Original/Light
330 mL. x 24
VAT INCLUSIVE
P365
per case
P15.21 per can

ARO Mountain Bike
Size 26, 18 Speed
All Steel
VAT INCLUSIVE
P1,999

SUNNY VCD/MP3 Player
220 Volts, Remote Control
2029
VAT INCLUSIVE
P1,949

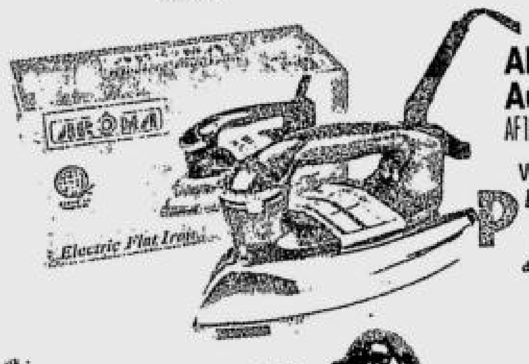
SAMWON Radio Cassette Player
220 Volts, AM / FM Receiver
Single Cassette Deck
SW 900
VAT INCLUSIVE
P389



PROMAC Orbit Fan 16"
220 Volts, Plastic Blade
VAT INCLUSIVE
P749

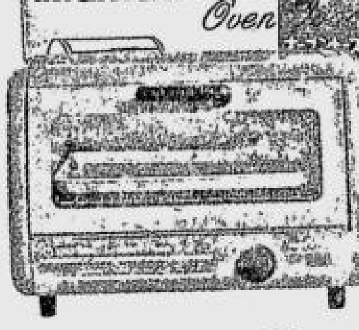
Hydraulic Floor Jack

NB Hydraulic Jack
2 Tons #82004S21
VAT INCLUSIVE
P859

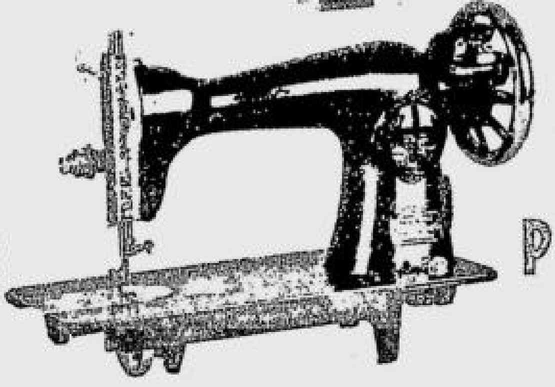

AROMA
Electric Flat Iron

AROMA Auto Dry Iron
AF18
VAT INCLUSIVE
P279

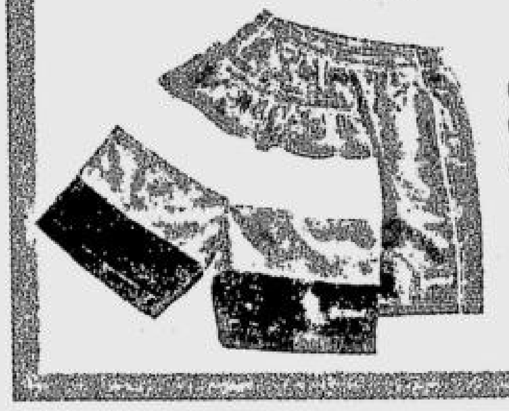
HARVEST Water Jug
7-pc. Set
VAT INCLUSIVE
P109


imarflex.
Oven

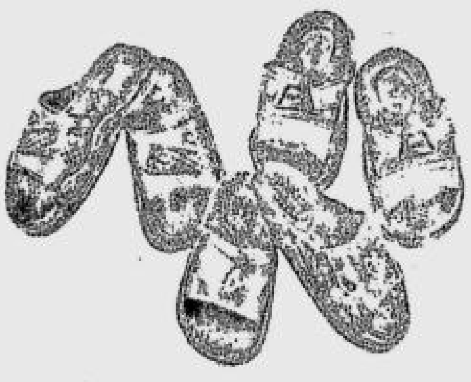
IMARFLEX Oven Toaster
220 Volts, 60 Hz
KM180
VAT INCLUSIVE
P518



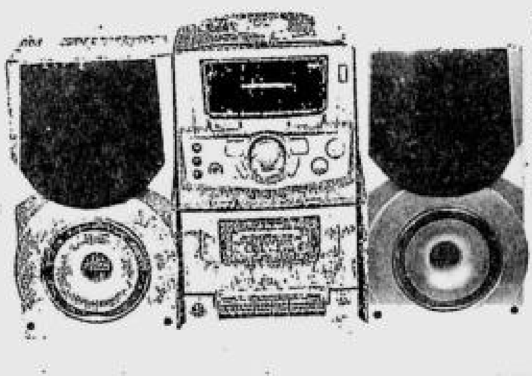
AROMA Sewing Machine
w/ Electric Motor
220 Volts, ASM25
VAT INCLUSIVE
P1,495



CERSA Garterized Shorts
VAT INCLUSIVE
P95



NB Men's 1-Strap Rubberized Slippers
VAT INCLUSIVE
P69



VISTRON Micro Component
CD/VCD/MP3 Player
Remote Control
Single Cassette Deck
VI-VS288
VAT INCLUSIVE
P3,695

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Store 3 Novaliches
Store 4 Sucat
Store 5 Harbour Centre
Store 6 Cebu
Store 7 Davao
Store 8 Pampanga
Store 9 Batangas

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BUSINESS*Friday*

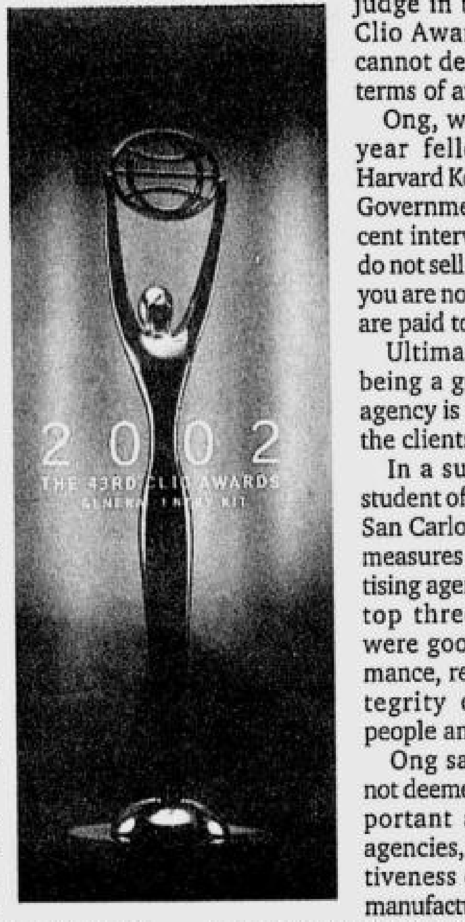
Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

What's the fuss over awards? It's bottom line that matters

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

THE 17TH Advertising Congress last November emphasized the fact that the Philippines is full of creative people.

In fact, Ayala Corp. president Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala stated that the Philippines could be the creative hub of Asia and pull the country out of its economic rut and improve on its terrible image overseas.



But it seems that Thailand and Singapore may have beaten the country to that title. The two countries have been reaping international recognition for some of their work.

The Philippines has yet to win an award in the Academy Awards of Advertising—the Clio Awards.

The reason for the lack of awards despite the abundance of talent may be traced to the very nature of Filipinos who do not want to offend so they stick to very safe and neutral ads.

More often than not, clients simply ask their ad agencies to do ads that are similar to those of their competitors.

This observation has prompted J. Walter Thompson executive creative director Robert Labayen to state, "I wish that more marketing people would stay away from the safe shores to discover new oceans. If Matisse listened to his conservative art critics, he would not have moved his art forward. If test respondents killed Benetton's controversial campaign, fashion advertising would have not changed."

The hope and desire of the advertising industry is that this year will be the year for Philippine creative talents to shine in the international arena.

But just how important are awards?

Yoly Villanueva-Ong, chair of Campaigns and Grey and the first Filipino to be asked to judge in the prestigious Clio Awards, says, "you cannot define business in terms of awards."

Ong, who is on a one-year fellowship at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, said in a recent interview that "if you do not sell the product then you are not doing what you are paid to do."

Ultimately, the key to being a good advertising agency is to be able to sell the clients' products.

In a survey done by a student of the University of San Carlos in Cebu on the measures of a good advertising agency, Ong said the top three factors cited were good brand performance, reputation and integrity of the agency, people and awards.

Ong said awards were not deemed as the most important achievement of agencies, rather the effectiveness of the ad on the manufacturers' bottom line.

"I hope that Filipinos will be less insecure and apologetic about the advertising that we do. We may not win a lot of international awards but many respectable companies are using Philippine ads as global templates because of their insight and effectiveness," Labayen added.

In a crisis, make ads attractive and relevant

"ATTRACTIVE and relevant to consumers."

This is how companies should advertise their products and services especially when the economy is down.

These two elements, according to Joselito B. Ortega, president of BBDO/Guerrero Ortega, make any advertisement stand out among thousands of advertising materials that deluge newspapers and broadcast daily.

ORTEGA

"If your ad doesn't get noticed, what you said doesn't matter. A good ad should make people stop and look. If they don't, that's money down the drain," says Ortega, one of the keynote speakers in the forthcoming 12th National Marketing Educators' Conference organized by the Association of Marketing Educators (AME) on March 1 at the ballroom of Hotel Rembrandt.

In his talk, "Winning Advertisements In These Times Of Crisis," Ortega will share new marketing insights, winning secrets and the latest marketing strategies applicable to companies during these trying economic times.

Given that a big chunk of a company's marketing mix is dedicated to advertising and promotions, Ortega notes that today's advertisements should be extremely relevant to buyers, and should make consumers need and want the product.

Companies should go beyond merely listing down their product features which are basically generic attributes.

"Advertisers should 'connect' with consumers and stir their emotions. It doesn't have to be all emotional, of course. Humor and a lot of creative work also make an ad successful," Ortega stresses.

Ortega cites Pizza Hut's cheesy stuffed crust as an example of a product campaign that effectively integrated elements that make a winning ad. The product was launched last year when the country was going through tough times. But due to the advertisement's simple and natural appeal plus the fact that it is a premium quality product, Pizza Hut has successfully sold stuffed crust pizza, breaking all-time sales records.

"It's really the value equation that has a lot to do with the emotional worth," Ortega says.

Options

Small companies with limited budget should be more daring with their gimmicks, Ortega adds.

"They should allow their ad agencies to break through the conventional wall. This way, companies can be sure that in one way or another, their ads will get the attention they deserve," he says.

Ortega also believes that when the chips are down, companies should advertise more instead of holding on to their resources or simply keeping a wait-and-see attitude. Most of the time local companies retract when everything is so depressed, when everybody is not spending as much. But cutting down on advertising budget only makes companies open themselves to risks.

Ortega said that what these firms have actually done was a short-term decision to keep their profits but missed out on the opportunity to strengthen their brand.

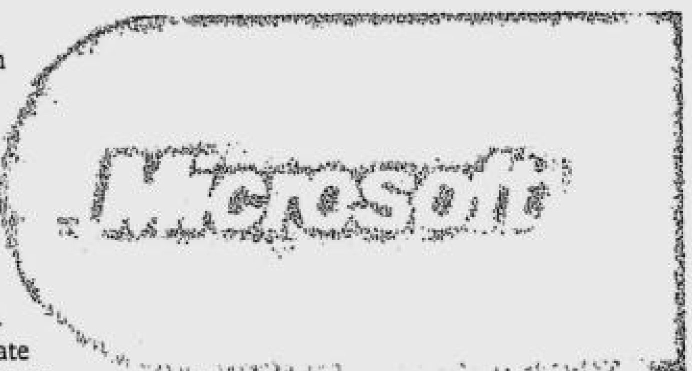
"During tough times, that's when you separate the men from the boys. It is during these times when you buy your market shares because they are cheaper and there are only few advertisers and brands. Now is the best time to get into the consumers' mind and tell them that you are here to stay through good and bad times. It's just like being a friend," Ortega says. "When consumers see the good times come back, they would realize that it is easier to buy from a friend, from a company that stuck with them," he adds.

Ortega also advises companies with diversified products to take care of their premium product and capitalize on their biggest assets once faced with financial dilemma that might curb advertising budget.

Together with his creative partner David Guerrero, Ortega established a joint venture ad agency with BBDO Worldwide-BBDO/Guerrero Ortega in 1998. The agency dominated the recent Advertising Congress awards competition held in Cebu, winning 100 awards, including 17 gold. The agency was also named as the Creative Agency of the Year 2001 by the 4As. Their client list includes Visa, Baygon, Bench, Pizza Hut, Bayfresh and Adidas. The Manila office of BBDO is now the regional creative center for international brands like Visa and FedEx. The agency conceptualized and produced the Visa commercial featuring "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" star Zhang Ziyi which is now running across the whole of Asia.

Corporations with human touch get high marks in reputation scale

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao



LARGE corporations have been typically seen by people as behemoths with no other purpose but to generate as much profit as they could, with no regard for the effect on the environment and on the people.

There was a time when people just accepted that corporations were out to generate profit. After all, these firms provided employment. Some corporations were large enough to employ an entire town, spelling the difference between survival and death for a community.

But those days of the omnipotent corporations are slowly going the way of the dinosaur.

Johnson's baby clear lotion
anti-mosquito
CLINICALLY PROVEN
Anti-Mosquito Protection
Johnson-Johnson
100 ml

With intense competition and the growing sophistication of consumers, companies now need to become more human, more responsible toward the environment and consumers to get the patronage of its clients.

This was the finding of the third annual RQ Gold study on corporate reputation made by Harris Interactive, which rated the most visible companies in the US according to how stakeholder groups perceived corporate attributes.

Over 21,630 online respondents participated in the survey. They were asked how the public, consumers, general investors and corporate employees perceive the six dimensions of reputation—emotional appeal, products and services, vision and leadership, financial performance, workplace environment and social responsibility.

Pharmaceutical company Johnson & Johnson topped the survey for the third year in a row because of its powerful image as a "caring company" with its line of products for babies and for their parents.

Microsoft Corp. was ranked next to J & J, propelled by its financial performance and management's vision and leadership. It was praised for its innovation although others felt that it held too big of a share in the software market.

Beverage maker Coca-Cola rounded up the two three firms and it jumped from 16 to 3.

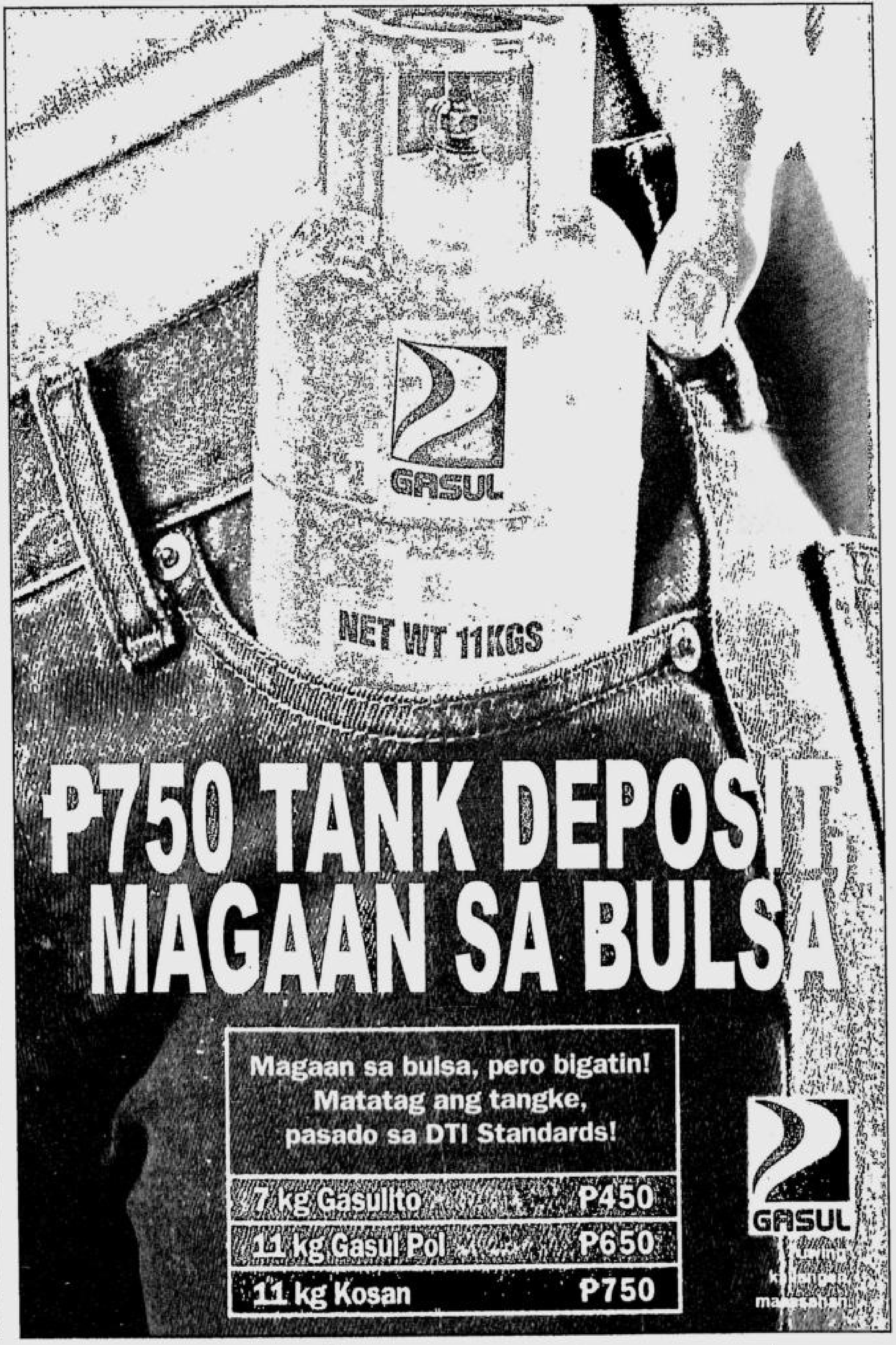
Harris Interactive and the Reputation Institute said in a statement that the public gave good marks to Coca-Cola for "conveying invigorated leadership under CEO Doug Daft and unveiling an effective global advertising campaign."

Charles Fombrun, executive director of the Reputation Institute, said the survey proved that the public can sense good business ethics, and these directly affect the bottom line.

"Good reputations create wealth. By developing strong and consistent images, well regarded companies generate hidden assets—or reputational capital—that give them a distinct advantage," he said.

Joy Sever, senior vice president and director of Harris Interactive's Reputation Practice, added that the survey highlighted the challenge to improve corporate reputation, and the ease at which it can be lost.

Other firms in the top 10 include Intel, 3M, Sony, Hewelt-Packard, Federal Express, Maytag and IBM Corp.



Magaan sa bulsa, pero bigatin!
Matatag ang tangke,
pasado sa DTI Standards!

7 kg Gasulito	P450
11 kg Gasul Pol	P650
11 kg Kosan	P750

Allocation of head office expenses to a Philippine branch

By Ian B. Lapinid

TAX FILES

SGV & Co.

THE TAX Code has empowered the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) to allocate income and expenses to two or more related entities such as a foreign corporation and its branch in the Philippines.

As a result, the BIR does not usually allow the branch to deduct the share in head office (HO) expenses from the gross income for income tax purposes.

How can a branch respond to the BIR's disallowance? Should the branch show detailed proof that its claimed share in HO expenses was, in fact, incurred by the HO? Should the branch present evidence such as official receipts and invoices to substantiate the HO expenses?

Should the branch secure documents from its HO abroad and bring them to the Philippines for the BIR's examination? In other words, should the branch be placed in the same league as a domestic corporation in substantiating an expense so that it can be claimed as a deduction?

The deductibility of an expense is generally governed by Section 34(A)(1) of the Tax Code. Under this provision, the expense must be necessary to the trade or business for it to be deductible from the gross income.

The expense must also be substantiated or supported by official receipts, invoices or other records to show that it was necessary to the trade or business of the taxpayer.

These rules, however, do not strictly apply to a Philippine branch of a foreign corporation, i.e., the HO.

A branch's deductible share in the expenses of its HO is specially governed by Section 42(B)of the Tax Code, which expressly allows a branch to deduct certain expenses incurred by its HO abroad.

There are two kinds of HO expenses that may be claimed by a Philippine branch as a deduction. These are (i) HO expenses that can be identified with or attributed to Philippine operations, and (ii) HO expenses that cannot be identified with or attributed to but are effectively connected with Philippine operations.

The first kind may be deducted by a branch in full without need of further allocation or apportionment. As to the second kind, there is a need to allocate or apportion the HO expenses as only a portion may be deducted by the branch.

The branch, however, cannot adopt just any method of allocation. The method shall be limited to the ratios prescribed by Revenue Regulations (RR) No. 2, otherwise known as the Income Tax Regulations, as amended by RR No. 16-86 of the BIR.

The deductible portion of HO expenses shall be based only on one of the following ratios: (i) Philippine gross income to the worldwide gross income; and (ii) Philippine net sales to the worldwide net sales.

The branch should use the same ratio every year. If a branch decides to use any other method or ratio of allocation, it must first secure written permission from the commissioner of Internal Revenue.

Moreover, for the HO expenses to be deductible by a branch, RR No. 2, as amended by RR No. 16-86, also requires that the annual income tax return to be filed should be accompanied by a certificate issued by a reputable independent certified public accountant (CPA).

The Supreme Court has already approved the rules governing a branch's deductible share in HO expenses.

The SC explained that if an expense is clearly related to income derived from Philippine operations, the expense is deductible in full without resorting to allocation or apportionment. Thus, salaries of personnel and rental of office building of the Philippine branch, even if paid by the HO in behalf of the branch, can be fully deducted for income tax purposes.

On the other hand, if the HO expense is not definitely identifiable with income from Philippine operations but directly benefit all the branches of the HO worldwide, the expense may be allocated or apportioned among the branches.

Only a portion of the expenses based on an acceptable ratio can be deducted by the Philippine branch for income tax purposes. Hence, a portion of the overhead expenses incurred by the HO for finance, administration, and research and development for the benefit of all its branches is deductible by the Philippine branch.

The rules seem to indicate that the requirements for deducting the share of HO expenses are not the same as that of a domestic corporation. This is due to the fact that HO expenses are usually incurred abroad and involves a large amount. A Philippine branch does not have to support the expenses by showing official receipts, invoices and the like.

Instead, it can support the expenses by presenting an authenticated certification from a reputable independent CPA, which under RR No. 16-86 should be attached to the income tax return.

With this certification, a Philippine branch is assured that the deductibility of its share in HO expenses is sufficiently established and the expenses would not be arbitrarily disallowed by the BIR as a deduction from gross income for income tax purposes. *(For comments and suggestions, please send an e-mail to sgv mail@Andersen WO.)*

German has solution to RP water woes?

By Raul C. Dancel

TAGUIG Rep Alan Cayetano inspects one of Getec's filling stations.

A GERMAN company has introduced in the Philippines a new technology that may very well offer a solution to Metro Manila's water pollution problem—and provide a revenue source for small businesses.

Getec Trade GmbH, an engineering firm set up in 1997, has opened two small water treatment plants in Taguig and Romblon that use its patented "Aqua Plus" technology.

Aqua Plus uses a set of portable equipment that removes germs, bacteria, odors, colors, heavy metals and other contaminants from water, but lets valuable minerals pass. The process costs less and consumes less energy than conventional methods of treating water, which makes it an ideal business for small companies.

"We clean the water and, after cleaning, we don't have the bad things, only the good things. Nature is cleaned," says Volker Thielmann, general manager of Getec Trade.

Thielmann explains that unlike "purified" or "distilled" water, water treated by Aqua Plus isn't "dull." It has "taste", he says, taste that comes from minerals and something that makes it perfect for beer, coffee and tea. Also, unlike water treated with chlorine or ozone, water that goes through the Aqua Plus system is odorless.

More than having taste and being odorless, however, water treated by Aqua Plus is healthy. Harmful chemicals like nitrite and nitrate, which are responsible for hyperactivity among children, are removed, while minerals that the body needs for the bones to grow and cells to regenerate are allowed to pass.

How does the technology work?

Aqua Plus uses "pure atomic oxygen" produced inline by using electricity to split the compound H_2O into H_2 and O. Unlike oxygen in the air, or O_2, or ozone, or O_3, atomic oxygen is aggressive enough to kill all microorganisms, even those in water from contaminated rivers and lakes.

The atomic oxygen cracks all hydrocarbons in a chain reaction, with water and carbon dioxide as harmless end-products, while chlorine, as a byproduct, will react with sodium or other alkali elements. The activated carbon will absorb pesticides, herbicides—some molecules will be cracked and oxidized—and all metals, except salt-forming metals like calcium, magnesium and sodium, will be absorbed by the activated carbon.

Iron, responsible for the ugly color of some deep well waters, will be absorbed. Nitrite and nitrate will be eliminated. Independent of the absolute concentration of water, ammonium will be reduced by 30 percent.

The entire system is relatively cheap at around P2 million and can be easily set up in a small room. The package comes in a box 160 centimeters long, 120 centimeters high and 30 centimeters thick, and weigh a total of 200 kilograms.

The whole system can produce 2,500 gallons a day that a retailer can sell for P5 a gallon, ensuring a daily income of P10,000 or between P100,000 and P200,000 a month.

Getec, with local partner Abundant Life Enterprises, has set up filling stations in Taguig and Romblon more as a way to serve the public than chalk up a profit. The outlet in Taguig draws water from Laguna de Bay and sells water treated by Aqua Plus to low-income families mostly in the Lower Bicutan area. The idea has been to provide poor communities with access to clean, healthy water at a fraction of the cost.

Wine maker hopes to sparkle by appealing to the youth

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

Asti
CINZANO
CINZANO
Asti

CAMPARI's Simonete Ilari

FOREIGN manufacturers or distributors of wines and spirits have their hands full in trying to penetrate the Philippine market that absolutely loves its local beer, rum and gin.

One tack used by the Campari group of Italy to push the Cinzano brands of sparkling wines in the Philippines is to tap the young market.

This market is open to trying out different alcoholic beverages from those enjoyed by their parents or their older relatives because of the wider range of products available in the market, and exposure to foreign cultures.

Simonete Ilari, marketing manager of the Campari group in Asia-Pacific, tells Business Friday that the company wants to bring across to the young people the message that Asti which means sparkling wines, are ideal for any gathering.

"As we say, bring an Asti Cinzano and the party will come because it is a stylish product and would appeal to the young," Ilari says.

MARKETING STRATEGY

Asti Cinzano gives the young a taste of what drinking Asti Cinzano feels like through bar tours and special events designed to heighten awareness of the Asti Cinzano look, feel and taste.

Ilari says the Asti group also stresses the value of authenticity, which means that not all drinks that claim to be Asti deserve to be called Asti. Asti is a region in Italy where grapes are grown.

The need to educate is particularly felt in the Philippines where many drinkers do not differentiate between the different kinds of sparkling wines and champagne.

Ilari stresses that only sparkling wines that use the white Muscat grapes from the Asti area within the Piedmont region in northern Italy can bear the name Asti on the bottle. The wines pass through a stringent quality control system in the area before these can be exported. The wines that pass through these tests are branded as DOCG or Denominazione di Origine Controllata e Garantita, which guarantees the origin of the wine.

"I believe that Filipinos will like the Asti Cinzano because Filipinos like sweet drinks, and Asti has a sweet and fruity flavor," Ilari adds.

Asti Cinzano is just one of the spirits distributed by The Campari group which was founded in Milan in 1860 by Gaspare Campari.

Its product portfolio today includes spirits, wines, soft drinks and mineral waters, which are distributed in over 190 countries around the world. Its main products include Campari, one of the top 10 international spirit brands in the world, Skyy Vodka and the Cinzano brands.

Last year, it acquired very strong South American local brands like Dreher, Old Eight, Drury's, Gold Cub, Conservador and Liebraumich (in Brazil) and Gregson's (in Uruguay).

The Campari group continues its acquisition binge with the purchase last month of Sella and Mosca, a major player in the premium wine market and Zedda Piras, the leading Sardinian spirits company.

The Campari group currently sells only 1,800 cases of Asti Cinzano in the Philippines which it hopes to increase to at least 8,000 cases by 2005.

"The market is not yet developed but we believe that the product has a lot of features that the Philippine market would like. It is just a matter of time," she explains.

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Cashing in on backyard asparagus farming

STEAMED, with mayonnaise for dip; made into succulent soup; sauteed with onions and pork beef or chicken and whipped into a variety of other dishes, asparagus is guaranteed to whet up your dining capriccio and win over your taste buds.

In terms of nutritive value, asparagus has 32 percent calcium content, 30 percent phosphorus and other vitamins and minerals. But because it is expensive it is not popular with low-income families. Backyard farming could reverse that.

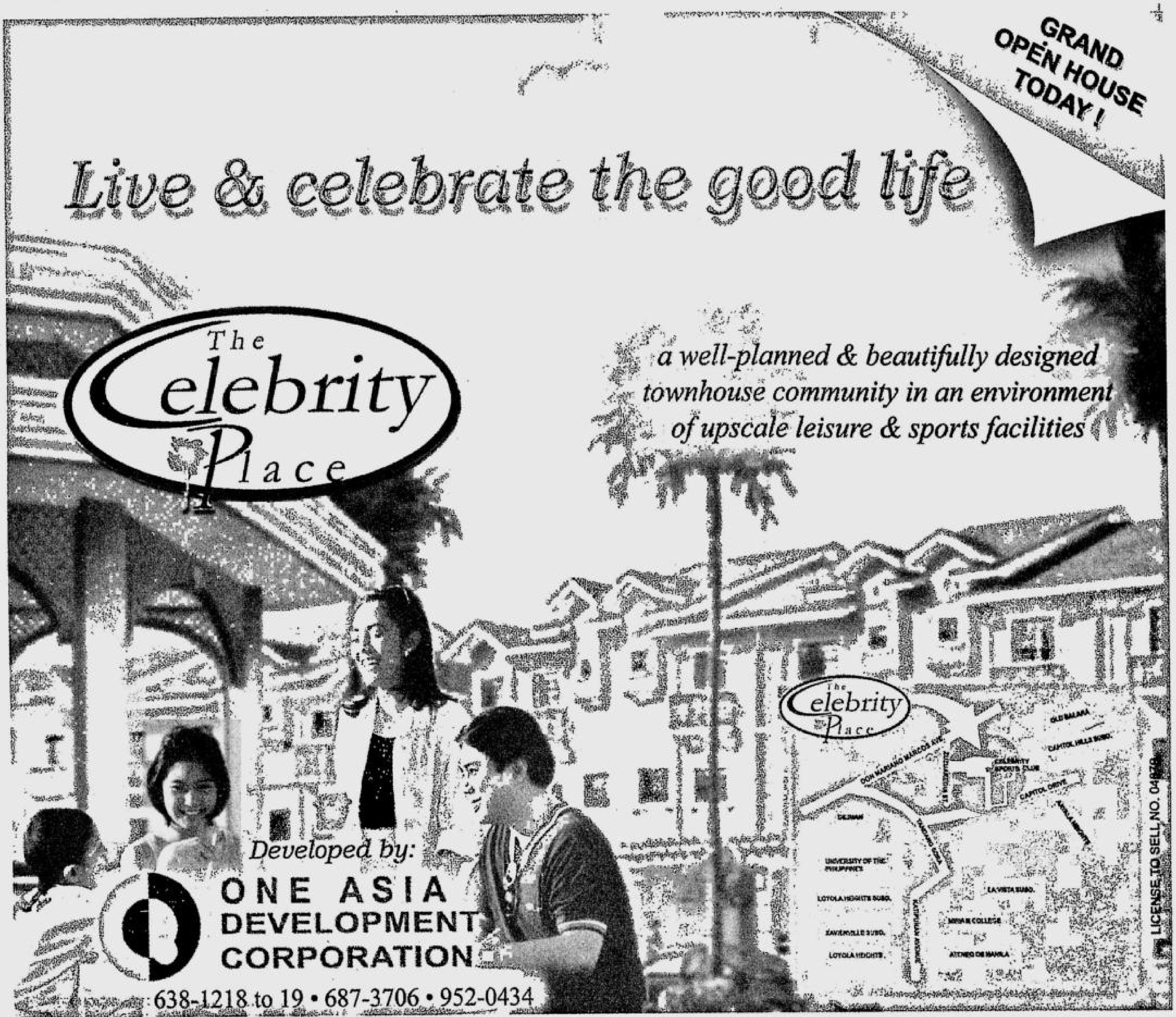
This high-end vegetable is served as regular fares in trendy hotels, pricey restaurants and by airline caterers which supply food requirements of transients and expatriates.

Asparagus, often regarded as rare and expensive, can be a regular fare in the Filipino family's meals. The trick is to plant them yourself in your backyard. This hardy branching, herbaceous plant considered a vegetable in cooking grows best in cool places. Thus, cultivation was previously limited to farms in Baguio and the Mountain Province.

However, new tropical varieties—Mary Washington and Martha Washington among them—have been found suitable in warm climate, which makes them a good choice in backyard farming anywhere in the country.

Asparagus can be harvested 200 days in a year with a weekly yield of 2 kilos from about 75 plants. Demand for this highly regarded vegetable is

CASH/ C4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Per DTI-NCR Permit no. 0323 Series of 2002

Card network launches global ad campaign

LEADING global payment system MasterCard International has committed to sponsor the 2002 FIFA World Cup, and it is has unveiled a global marketing campaign to leverage on the global exposure.

Millions are expected to tune in to the games, which would take place in Korea and Japan from May 31 to June 30 as it marks the first time that the games would be held in Asia.

MasterCard, an association comprised of more than 20,000 member financial institutions which has been involved with the FIFA World Cup since 1990, has focused its initiatives around three key elements: reinforcing brand image and awareness; generating business-building and card-usage opportunities for members and merchants; and providing value to MasterCard cardholders.

Different programs centering on the FIFA sponsorship would be launched in MasterCard's core regions, including: Asia Pacific, Europe, Latin America/Caribbean, North America and Middle East/Africa.

For the 2002 FIFA World Cup, MasterCard has unveiled six new affinity card designs, three of which feature the company's global spokesperson and legendary ambassador to the sport, Pele.

To illustrate the importance of the FIFA World Cup sponsorship platform for MasterCard members, leading into 1998 FIFA World Cup in France, 53 member financial institutions in 26 countries issued more than 1.5 million 1998 FIFA World Cup affinity cards.

The estimate for affinity cards associated with the 2002 FIFA World Cup—in Japan and Korea alone—is already double that of 1998.

In the Philippines, the Hong Kong & Shanghai Banking Corp. is set to issue limited edition HSBC World Cup Commemorative Cards in March.

Advertising

MasterCard's award-winning "Priceless" advertising campaign—currently seen in 80 countries and in 40 languages—coupled with the company's FIFA World Cup sponsorship platform, provides an outstanding opportunity to link the MasterCard brand to the sport of soccer in consumers' minds around the world.

To capitalize on the 2002 FIFA World Cup, MasterCard has created a print advertisement featuring the company's global soccer spokesperson, Pele, for local region use. Additionally, current plans call for the creation of a 30-second 2002 F1FA World Cup television commercial also designed for local region-use.

The new "Priceless" television commercial is expected to be unveiled in the first quarter of 2002.

Brand building and presence marketing

Aside from traditional advertising, MasterCard will implement an aggressive brand building and presence marketing campaign in both host countries. An out-of-home media campaign with billboards lining the highway from Narita International Airport to the city of Tokyo will highlight MasterCard's association with the 2002 FIFA World Cup.

FOOTBALL legend Pele has been a proven asset of Mastercard.

Airports in both countries will feature MasterCard/2002 FIFA World Cup branding through airport signage and luggage cart decals in Narita, Seoul and Busan. Additionally, MasterCard will host a "Welcome Center" in Incheon International Airport for first-time visitors attending FIFA World Cup matches.

Experience FIFA World Cup

As a component of its official sponsorship of the 2002 FIFA World Cup, MasterCard International also unveiled an interactive website designed to bring soccer fans from around the globe closer to the games.

The site's focus on community, entertainment and information offers something for everyone. In addition, Pele, the company's global spokesperson for soccer, plays an integral role in the FIFA World Cup section of MasterCard's website.

MasterCard member banks and merchant partners around the world are currently running or are in the process of creating a number of FIFA World Cup-related programs designed to promote MasterCard card usage and ultimately build business and provide cardholder value.

As a component of its overall alliance with FIFA, MasterCard is implementing a program to benefit FIFA's charity of choice, Unicef. MasterCard cardholders worldwide will have an opportunity to assist Unicef via purchases made online at fifaworldcup.com.

In addition, the MasterCard 2002 FIFA World Cup All-Star Team, a program implemented with FIFA to determine the top players of the tournament, will benefit Unicef via donations made by MasterCard in honor of the selected All-Stars.

Through the end of the 2002 FIFA World Cup, MasterCard will have donated approximately $1 million through several programs, including a number of FIFA World Cup-themed initiatives.

The Pele Asset

As MasterCard's global spokesperson for soccer for more than a decade, legendary soccer star Pele is a proven asset as MasterCard leverages its FIFA World Cup sponsorship. Popular the world over, Pele has played a key role in making MasterCard, member and merchant programs a success.

As the leveraging of 2002 FIFA World Cup began more than two years ago, Pele's involvement on behalf of MasterCard related to 2002 FIFA World Cup has and will include: appearances worldwide at affinity card program launches, involvement in advertising executions, as well as attendance at member functions, MasterCard meetings and related press events.

MasterCard and the FIFA

MasterCard International began its alliance with FIFA World Cup in 1990 as the official card and official product licensee of Italia 1990.

Based on the success of the original sponsorship platform, MasterCard elevated its stature by signing on as an official FIFA sponsor of a comprehensive package of tournaments played around the world that culminates with the F1FA World Cup.

Since then, MasterCard has been an official sponsor of 1994 FIFA World Cup (USA), 1998 FIFA World Cup (France), and the 1999 FIFA Women's World Cup (USA).

Cashing in on . . .

From page C3

high with the country importing P20 million worth of asparagus a year. In Metro Manila alone there is a 25-hectare gap in production for the required volume which is roughly 5,000 kilos a day.

Most preferred variety by growers in the country is Martha Washington which has high commercial quality; it adjusts well to the climate and is resistant to asparagus rust.

The male asparagus plant with relatively long flowers produces more spears or shoots than edible parts. The female plant however produces more seeds.

To cut on initial cost of production, it is better to start from seeds. These can be bought at P3 per gram from local producers of asparagus or from the Bureau of Plant Industry. A gram of seeds can produce about 75 plants.

To prepare the backyard for planting, plow and harrow the field twice alternately to obtain good soil tilt with a depth of 20 cm or deeper. Irrigate the field. Make furrows 30 cm. wide and 15-25 cm. deep. Apply chicken dung for fertilizer. Allow for 125 cm. distance between seeds.

To plant seeds, plant five seeds per hill and, upon transplanting, split the grown seedlings at the base as live separate plants. Allow only three canes or stems to grow on each hill so more spears can grow. Cut the canes of the male plants after they have already sent out pollens to fertilize the females.

Starting with seedlings means harvesting sooner. Seedling can be planted in used plastic or tin cups for six months and then transplanted to be exposed to field condition for another six months to one year. For easier transplanting, keep the crowns or the seedlings small by not applying any fertilizer until they are already in the field, arranged in plots.

Support weak stems by tying them to bamboo stakes and to prevent, also, the crowns below from being shaken by the wind.

Harvest seeds when they are already red and mature, then dry them for a few days. Store at room temperature for future planting. Harvesting the spears is done for 200 days a year. Green asparagus should be cut 9-10 inches longer or at least half the length above the ground. The spear should be no closer than two inches from the crown to avoid injury to the developed buds of the rhizomes. Allow rest periods during summer or when irrigation is not available.

Shoots may be marketed in bundles of one kilogram or half kilogram as is done in the Crossing area in Pasig City or Nepa-Q-Mart near Cubao.

Asparagus reaches 10-15 years of maximum productivity. After that, dig out the plants, split the canes at the base and replant them. ***Ma. Angelo Sumilang, PAJ News & Features***

ICTSI joins Asean meet

THE INTERNATIONAL Container Terminal Services, Inc. (ICTSI) joined the Philippine contingent to the Second ASEAN Ports Association (APA) Convention and Maritime Exhibition held recently at Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

ICTSI was represented by Edgardo Abesamis, executive vice president and head of Asian Region; Roberto Jayme, chief executive officer of ICTSI Philippine Operations; Jupiter Kalambakal, assistant manager for public relations; and Edward Milag, e-media and special projects coordinator.

The ICTSI delegation played a key role in the convention as Abesamis was one of the speakers of the three-day meet held last Nov. 5 to 7 at the New World Saigon Hotel. Moreover, the ICTSI booth showcasing the company's operations was a crowd favorite in the convention's exhibition.

Abesamis presented a brief history of ICTSI as well as the milestones of the first privatized port in the Philippines, the Manila International Container Terminal (MICT): "From our point of view, the Philippine experience in privatization of port operations has been productive to the Philippine economy.

All in all, the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) is very well satisfied with the arrangements and with the performance of its private contractors."

He added: "The trust put on the private sector to accomplish its part of the task has been justified. Privatization of other Philippine ports is being studied by PPA. We are confident that this will also be met with success."

91st
ANNIVERSARY
W

Oil firm documents 15 years of forestry experience

ENERGY Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. led diplomats from New Zealand, global funding agencies, farmers' associations in congratulating the PNOC Energy Development Corp. for the publication of the book, "Mountains of Triumph," which gives an account of the PNOC-EDC Social Forestry Experience for the last 15 years.

PNOC-EDC and New Zealand forged a partnership for a project that involves community folk in preserving and protecting the forests with a funding of P60 million from New Zealand and a matching fund from PNOC-EDC of the same amount.

The book was an occasion to recognize the successes of the PNOC-EDC-New Zealand team in empowering village folk and in organizing four farmers' associations in municipalities where EDC geothermal plants are operating—Palinpinon in Negros Oriental, Tongonan in Leyte and Bacon and Manito in Albay and Sorsogon. These four pilot associations have given birth to 72 more associations today benefiting more than 3,000 families.

Perez cited the team's support and effort that has shown "social forestry and sustainable development at their finest." Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez (read from him by Undersecretary Demetrio Ignacio) noted that the book effectively communicated the "transformation of *kaingeros* to forest protectors is nothing short of a miracle." EDC environmental management division manager Agnes de Jesus regaled the audience about how the idea of a book was hatched and then ultimately came to reality.

"The heart and soul of this book lies in the many lives of people that have been affected and touched by the social forestry project. Lives we lost, lives we enhanced and lives that will definitely have brighter futures," De Jesus said.

"Mountains of Triumph" was launched recently at the executive lounge of the PNOC-EDC office in Fort Bonifacio.

Mountains of Triumph

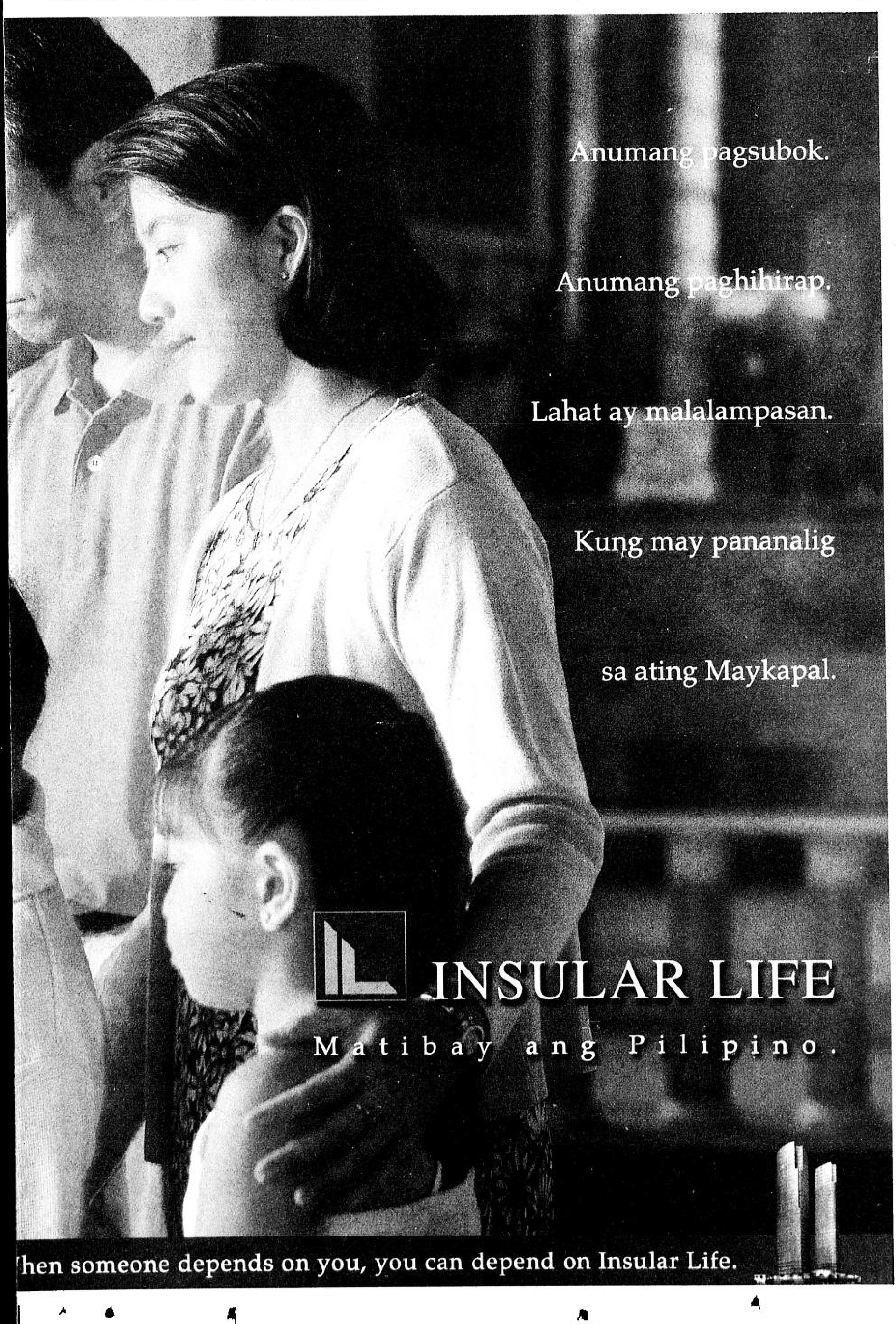
ENERGY Secretary Vince Perez unveils "Mountains of Triumph," with New Zealand Ambassador Terry Baker and DENR Undersecretary Demetrio Ignacio. A book on creating and maintaining a healthy balance between geothermal development and watershed management in the uplands, "Mountains of Triumph" is a product of the numerous environmental and livelihood projects implemented by the PNOC Energy Development Corp.

Mountains of Triumph

ENERGY Secretary Vince Perez, DENR Undersecretary Demetrio Ignacio, and New Zealand Ambassador Terry Baker receive gifts from Mario Salabares, Romula Regala, Lilla Cincua and Teodoro Laranjo—presidents of the four pilot farmer associations of the PNOC-NZ social forestry partnership.

Mountains of Triumph
PNOC-EDC

PNOC-EDC environment and external relations manager Leonardo Ote and Debbie Diokno of EDC public affairs mingle with guests at the recent launching of "Mountains of Triumph." Copies of the book and video were distributed among guests and friends.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UCPB channel transactions near ₱1-B mark

CUSTOMERS' transactions over UCPB's new electronic banking channels are nearing the P1 billion mark, reflecting the increasing popularity of the bank's IT-based delivery systems among its clientele.

UCPB said that from only P6.9 million in May 2001, when the new telephone and online banking channels were launched, customers' monthly electronic transactions hit P165.6 million in December 2001. Over the seven-month period, the total value of the electronic transactions amounted to P900.5 million. This figure excludes transactions over UCPB's ATMs, which process another 1.2 million individual transactions a month.

"UCPB is emerging as a market leader in electronic banking services," UCPB vice president for marketing Rosario C. Tan said. "As bank customers evolve and become more technologically sophisticated, UCPB is demonstrating its ability to respond rapidly to their changing needs, giving them better channels to access banking services and to manage their financial assets."

Tan said UCPB customers may now use their landline, mobile phone, personal computer and personal digital assistant to perform practically all their routine financial transactions even beyond the normal banking hours and even without going to their branches. "The customers may be stuck in traffic or out in the beach on vacation and they would still be able to manage their accounts," he said.

"People are growing more adept at using the new banking technologies, and as more and more of them become accustomed to the comfort and convenience that these technologies provide, we may see customers shifting from transacting at their branches to transacting at remote, self-activated electronic channels. This is why UCPB has been investing heavily in information technology over the last three years," Tan said.

In the future, Tan added, the key to winning market share will be a bank's wide range of electronic banking channels, rather than its number of branches.

E-Laboratory

"To leverage on its technology investments and extend its market reach, UCPB has formed a dedicated technology research and development unit called Strategic Innovations. The sole task of Strategic Innovations is to study emerging technologies and explore their financial services application," Tan said.

Using a project management approach, the unit surveys both the local and international consumer banking marketplace, develops product and service concepts, and then works with cross functional UCPB teams to introduce electronic banking innovations.

Strategic Innovation has been mainly responsible for coming out with UCPB's new electronic banking channels, and is currently working on a second Internet facility for corporate and institutional clients.

UCPB began introducing a wide variety of online banking products and services in mid-2001 to respond to the Filipino consumers' desire to conduct more of their financial transactions at the time and location of their choice. The bank currently offers its customers free use of UCPB Telebanking, the only real-time telephone banking facility in the country; offering secure and private payment transactions.

Banking by phone in real time

The only telephone banking service in the country that operates in real time, UCPB Telebanking is by far the most popular of UCPB's electronic banking channels. From May 2001 to December 2001, the service handled more than half a million transactions.

Tan explains that apart from enabling customers to do their banking even while they are at home or at the office, main attraction of UCPB Telebanking is the service's capability to process financial transactions in real time. If for instance, a user sends funds to somebody in any part of the country, the funds are credited instantly to the recipient's account and not an hour or a day later, Tan says. UCPB accountholders in the provinces may access the service via the toll-free number 1-800-1-888-UCPB.

Experience magical shopping at Automatic Centre@ayala

IT'S the ultimate magical shopping experience at Automatic Centre@ayala as you let yourself be transported to a new dimension and be enchanted with some of the best appliance deals in town!

The "Card Magic Sales Exhibit" at the corner of Ayala Avenue and Herrera will put you under its spell as you choose from the country's top brands like JVC, LG, Sony, Philips, Kelvinator, Condura, Carrier, Sharp, National Panasonic, Whirlpool, Changhong, Pioneer, Moulinex, Union, Frigidaire, and La Germania.

Allure yourself with that projection TV as you also get enticed with that stainless steel elegant refrigerator. The crisp sound of that sleek digital audio-video equipment is truly breathtaking. Whatever appliance you fancy or you've always been dreaming of can be yours.

A visit to the sales exhibit will get you carried away as you swipe your credit cards and be charmed with reduced or even 0-percent interest rates on selected appliances. You can immediately take off with your big-ticket items as you fly away home.

In addition, any of the following credit cards—AIG, Citibank, Diners Club, Equitable Card, Metrobank, Standard Chartered, Unicard and BPI Card—will fascinate you with more delightful perks than ever before.

The magical exhibit runs from Feb. 13 to March 27, 2002.

You'll also be amazed with additional offerings by Automatic Centre—the Warranty Plus, wherein you have the option of extended warranty on big appliances and the Replacement Advantage offered to all small appliances.

Warranty Plus is a program that extends the manufacturer's full factory warranty from one year to as long as five years. By paying just a small amount (one-time payment), you can choose an extended warranty for your appliances to protect them longer.

As if that were not enough, enjoy also Automatic Centre's Replacement Advantage for all small appliances you buy. Replacement Advantage lets you replace the small appliance with a brand new one after the manufacturer's one-year warranty expires. No more service/repair hassles.

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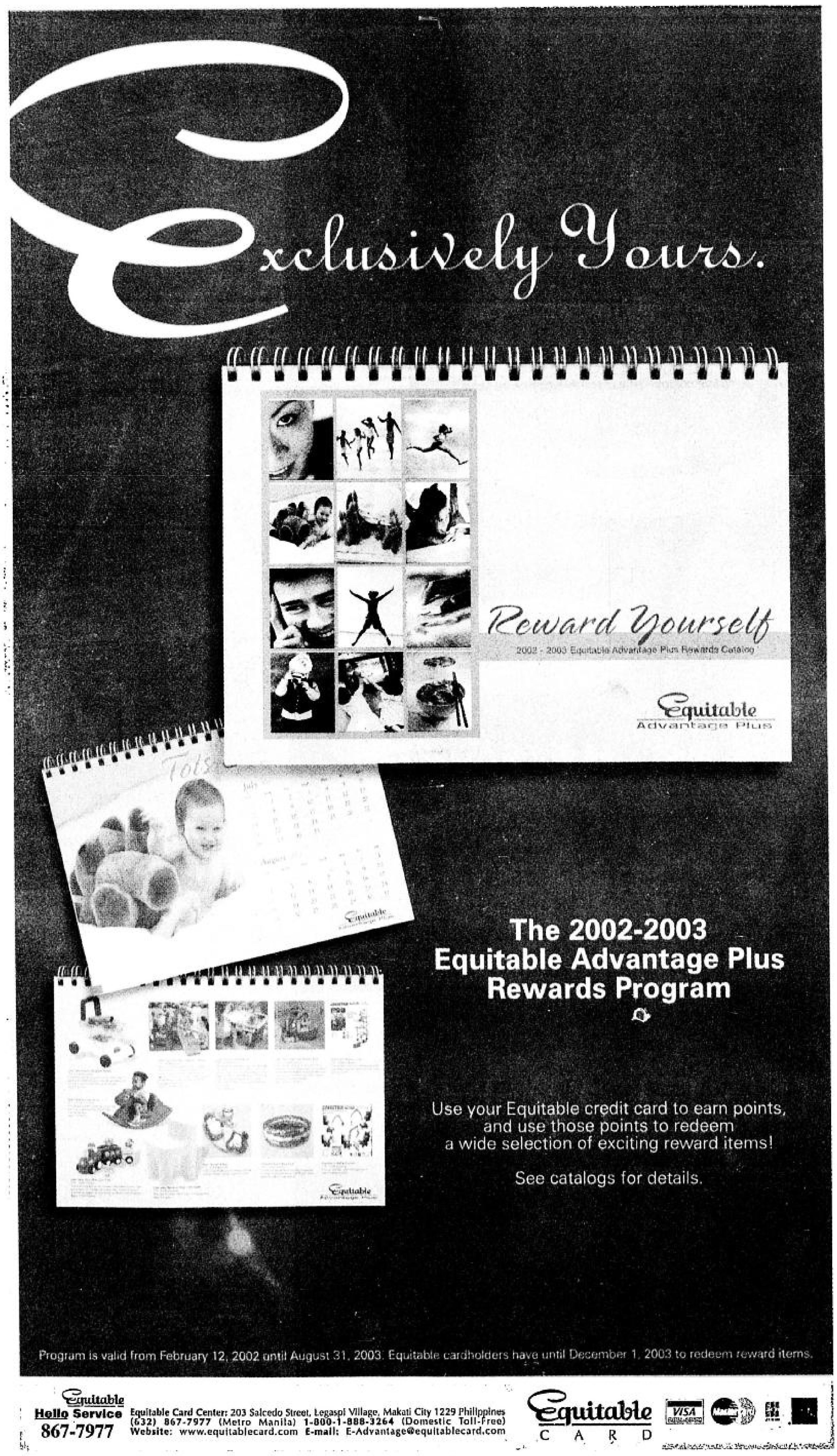
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Road map for SMEs en route to globalization

By Ernesto P. Pineda
UP Institute for Small-Scale Industries

THERE is a perception that globalization will adversely affect small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

This perception has created a bias toward protectionism to minimize the ill effects of a liberalized environment. The fact is that while some SMEs will hurt from intense competition, others will thrive in it. The larger part of the development effort should focus on the latter group of SMEs—those that are capable of slugging it out in the global marketplaces.

The agenda for development suggested in this article is focused on two fronts:

1. Leveling the playing field. This will address the concerns of SMEs likely to suffer from globalization. Its objective is to place the SMEs in an economic environment at par with that of SMEs in other countries. In the process, SMEs can compete more on merit and capability than on artificial advantages or disadvantages created by government intervention. A critical factor here is the tariff policy of government. All other factors being equal, leveling tariff rates will allow local SMEs a fair chance to compete in the new economic order.

2. Exploiting core advantages. This will build on the existing competitive advantages of strong SMEs. It advocates providing support to SMEs that can justify their ability to create value for society. This support is intended to enable SMEs to improve the efficiency of their operations in order to enhance further existing competitive advantages.

The suggested approach to development consists of eight elements:

(1) Industry clusters; the regulatory environment; financing; production and technology; markets and pricing; (6) information technology; (7) labor; and (8) government and nongovernment organizations.

Industry clusters. The proposed strategy for development adopts the industry clustering approach used by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) in its industry assistance effort.

Clustering will enable policymakers, regulatory bodies and financial institutions to support the development of a knowledge reservoir in a group of firms of varying sizes but similar product and market characteristics. This knowledge base could be used in preparing studies, which in turn could guide the formulation of appropriate policies, regulation and support packages for targeted industry clusters. The clusters may also grow into strong organizations that would provide information to its own members on markets, technology and product innovation, thereby complementing government efforts.

Regulatory environment. It has been said that doing business in the Philippines is difficult. To reverse this impression, the government has been streamlining the operations of national and local government agencies to make them enterprise-friendly. The DTI is currently reviewing laws and policies affecting SMEs. Cost of doing business may be reduced for SMEs by amending the Local Government and Internal Revenue codes and the Kalakalan 20 law.

Policy reforms on tariff and other aspects of regulation that crucially bear on the rational development of SMEs are hindered by lack of reliable data on small business. The DTI is hard put to be the reservoir of knowledge on SMEs. Although it has the mandate, it is constrained by limited resources. Here, industry clusters will be useful in yielding the needed information, with support in basic IT infrastructure development.

SME financing. SMEs being threatened by globalization and those that produce high-value products and services and generate export revenues should have ready access to financial resources.

Traditionally, however, SMEs are regarded as high-risk ventures that banks have tended to shun. However, the favorable exp000eriences on SME financing of some banks such as the Development Bank of the Philippines, Land Bank of the Philippines and Planters Development Bank should lead to a possible compromise between the aggressive past and the very conservative present attitude of most private banks and financial institutions. The DBP, for example, is implementing the Industrial Support and Services Expansion Program (Issep) for globalizing SMEs which boasts not only of lower than market interest rates, long-term lending and loans up to P100 million, but also of a technical and advisory assistance complement to financial services.

There is also a need to facilitate the flow of funds to SMEs through a network of appropriate conduit institutions more accessible to countryside enterprises.

Production and technology concerns. Productivity and efficiency are often associated with technology. The high investment involved in acquiring technology places a handicap on SMEs. This may be addressed by assisting SMEs forge linkages with multinational companies through subcontractor/supplier relationships or franchising arrangements that facilitate transfer of technology.

Another aspect of technology is R&D. This can be achieved through a strong organization that would make technology accessible and affordable at the firm level in the context of industry clustering.

Markets and pricing. In order to succeed, SMEs have to meet the volume, quality and pricing requirements of the highly competitive global market. The principle of economy of scale compels players to transact business in volume. SMEs, disadvantaged by small production capacity, will not be able to individually meet volume expectations. They need to join together to expand production capability and overcome other limitations imposed by size.

Industry clustering will allow a number of small firms nationwide to pool their resources, while maintaining their individuality, for volume production of a common item with controlled quality, common packaging and a proud "made in the Philippines" label. This will enable local SMEs to establish a consistent image abroad while providing, in the shortest time possible, the volume required by importers.

To compete globally, a product must meet the minimum world standards of quality. Thus, a culture of quality consciousness must be fostered among SMEs aspiring to survive and grow in the liberalized market environment.

Information technology. Access to markets is essential to growth in today's markets. This makes information technology no longer a competitive advantage but a necessity. SMEs can move toward globalization through the Internet.

However, the prohibitive cost of investment in IT and the inadequacy of the existing IT infrastructure have led to a mindset among Filipino SMEs that technology is an added cost rather than an opportunity. This implies the need for appropriate government agencies to partner with industry clusters to lay down the IT infrastructure for reaching and linking SMEs. Moreover, incentives should be offered to encourage investment in IT.

Labor. The enforcement of the minimum wage law throughout the country may have eroded the viability of some SMEs in certain regions. For example, SMEs in less developed regions are saddled with high labor costs, thereby reducing their cost efficiency. A study should be made to look at the ability of some SMEs to absorb legislated wages in selected regions.

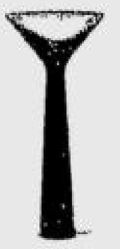
GOs and NGOs. The functions of these institutions are to complement and link the various SMEs with the government, business sectors and other institutions, locally and globally. They can serve to disseminate information to increase the knowledge base and awareness among SMEs, thereby building an advocacy toward entrepreneurism. These institutions can also provide training to increase competency and skill level of management and production personnel.

Broadly speaking, this agenda advocate that the returns of any effort—be it in building infrastructure, improvement of the macro environment or other forms—should be justified by their contribution to value creation for society. Socioeconomic objectives other than value creation should be pursued outside the arena where SMEs operate.

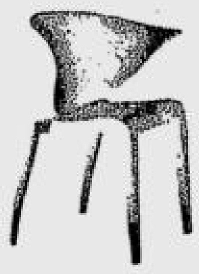
(The author is the director of the UP Institute for Small-Scale Industries. The article is excerpted from his paper of the same title in "SMEs and Globalization: Bridging the Gap," Serdef, UP ISSI, 2001.)

BANK OF COMMERCE CONCLUDES TRAINING PROGRAM
The board of directors of Bank of Commerce, headed by its chair Antonio Cojuangco (4th from left, seated) went through a two-day orientation and training seminar on Corporate Governance for Bank Directors on Feb. 5 and 8, 2002 in compliance with the requirements under Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) Circular 296. The effort signifies the bank's commitment to corporate governance reforms to bring the bank at par with the accepted best banking practice worldwide. Shown are the other directors and speakers, from left seated: Ramon Cojuangco Jr.; Lawyer Joselin Fragada, chair Emeritus; Raul de Mesa, president and CEO; Cojuangco, Miguel Cojuangco; Edgardo del Fonso and Marizza Anonas. Standing in the same order are: Lawyer Francisco Rodrigo Jr.; Glendon Rowell, resource speaker; Tomas Apacible, resource speaker; Rey Datu, president of Bancommerce Investment Corp.; Ambassador Raul Rabe; Dr. Jesus Estanislao, president of Institute of Corporate Directors; J. Marsh Thomson; Lawyer Enrique Sobrepeña; Lawyer Edgar Sanchez, corporate secretary; Dennis Litonjua; Charles Go and Lawyer Rafael Evangelista, vice chair.

[Xam Lamp by Terzani]



[Valencia Vase by Arcade]



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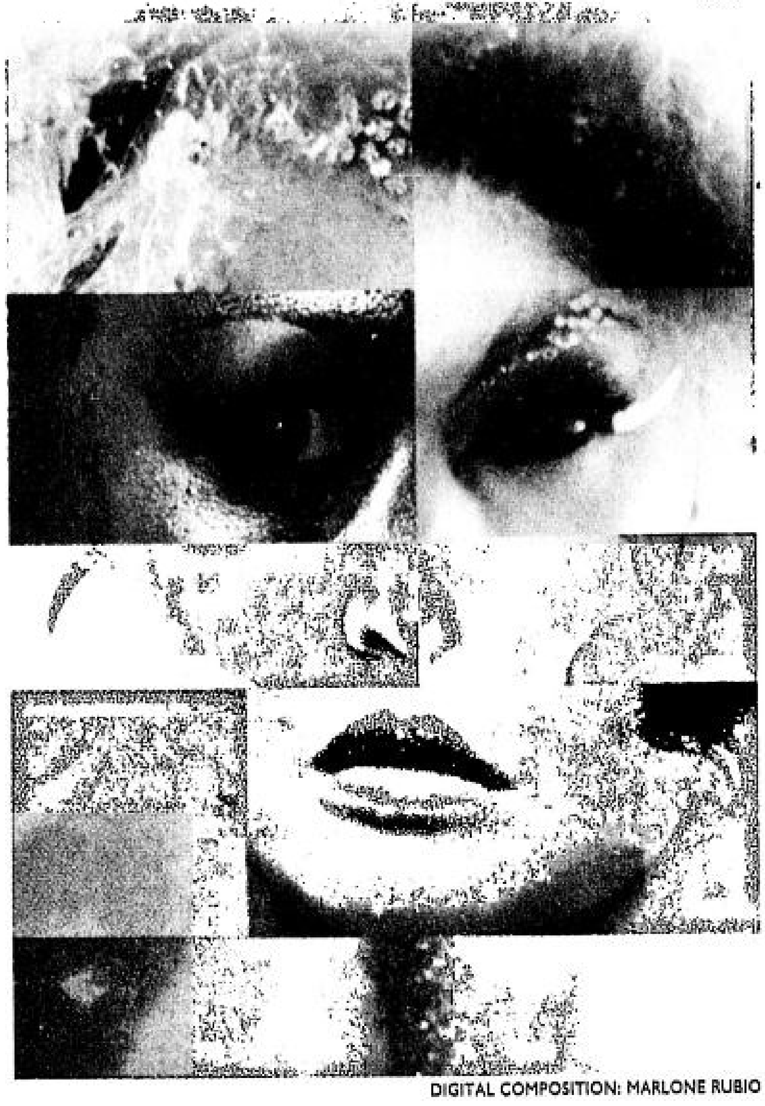

DIGITAL COMPOSITION: MARLONE RUBIO

The great makeup challenge

Story on page D6

Portrait of the costume designer as Ernest Santiago

Story on page D5

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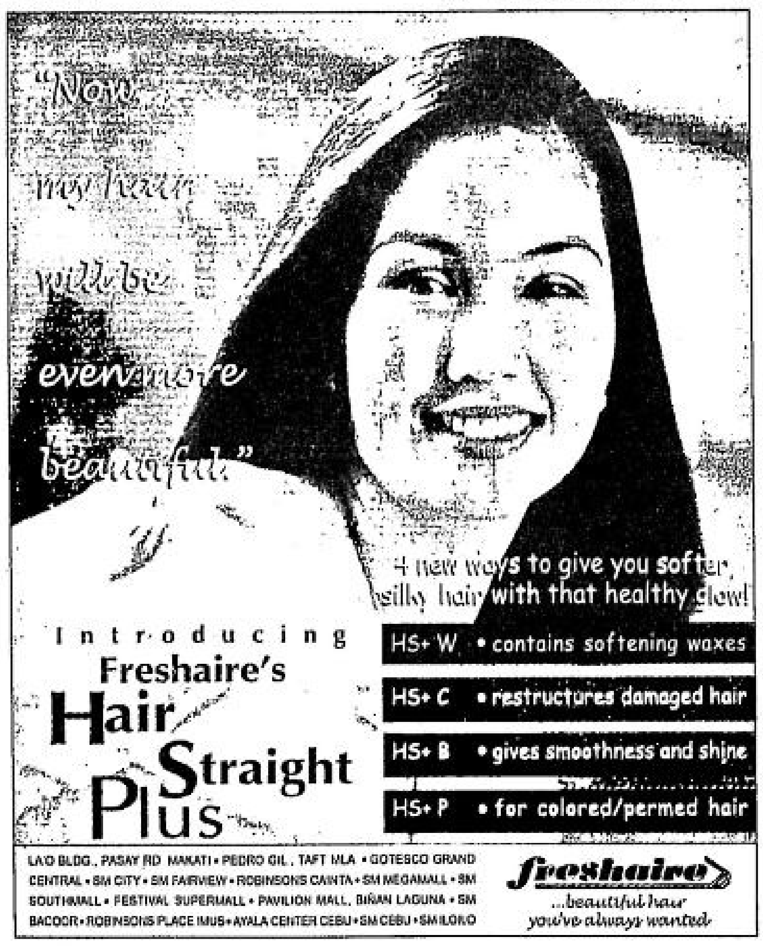
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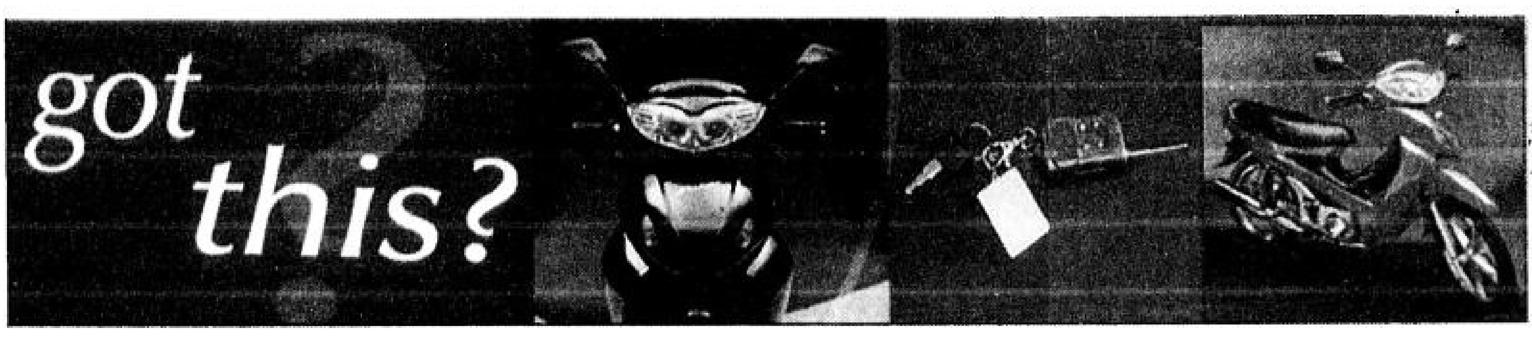
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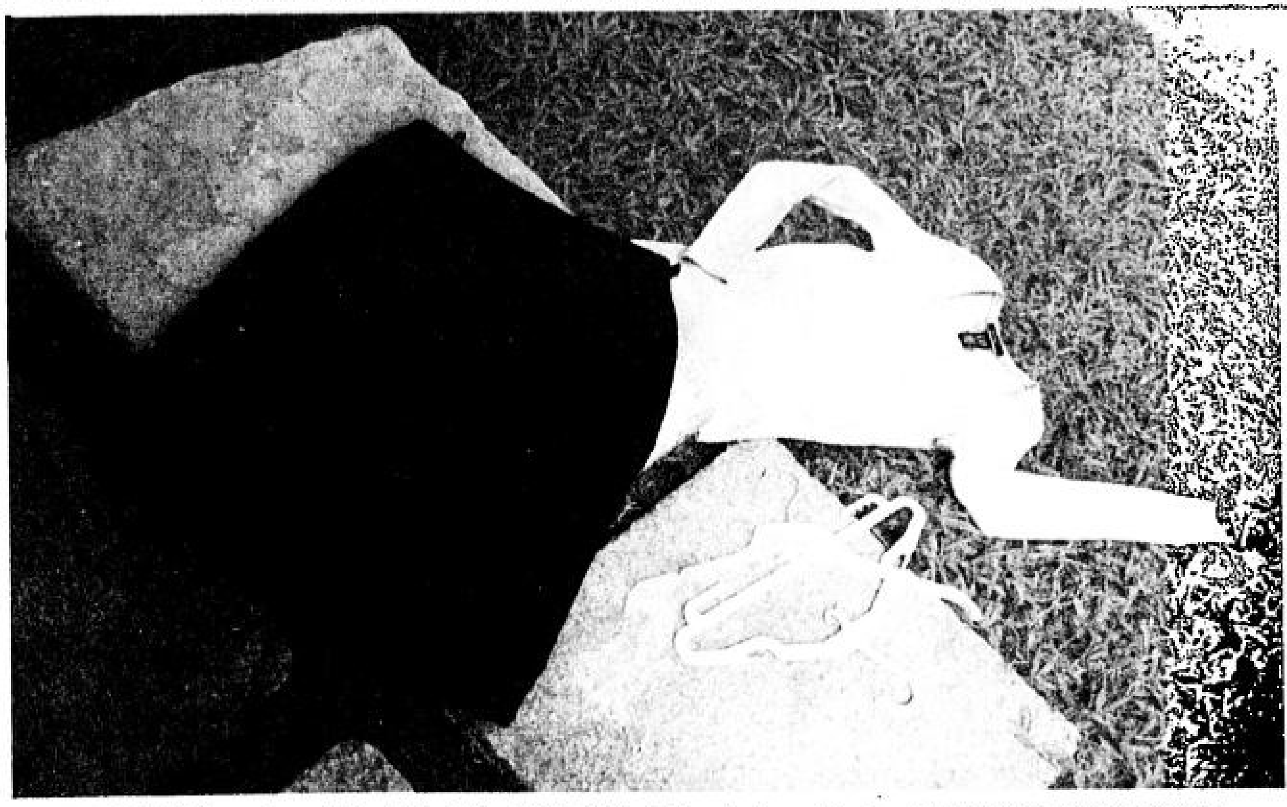


ROUND-NECK, long-sleeved khaki T-shirt, P995, GAP; indigo textured denim skirt with front tux, P2,995, Banana Republic

The lightest shade after white, khaki has become an essential wardrobe piece

STRIPED gathered-sleeved polo, P1,725, Banana Republic; khaki pants with buckle accents on sides, P2,995, GAP

Beyond Sahara nights

By Camille Cruz-Reyes
Contributor
Photos by Mike Alquinto

SOME of us believed that khaki was the official uniform of the safari. It was everywhere during the earlier years of Banana Republic, most of whose merchandise spelled jungle, sand and animals. In Banana Republic, almost everything was available in white and all shades of khaki.

Powerful and one of the most influential colors, khaki is again making waves in the fashion industry through details, coordinates, silhouettes and lengths.

In the casual marketplace, green undertones are an alternative to khaki. Matched with anything sandy, salmon, or peach, green blends are especially stunning to the eye. A coral or orange tone is also an alternative.

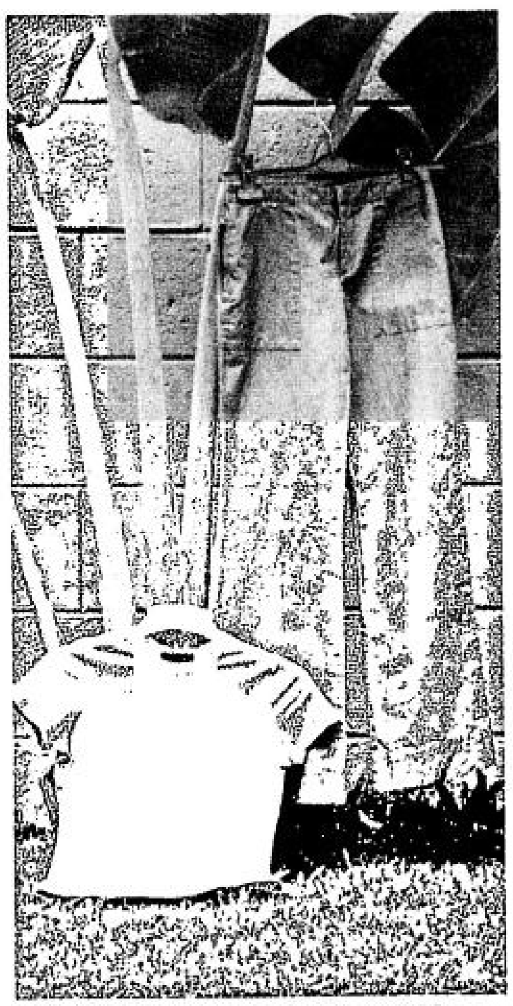
Pure khaki looks safe when worn with black, white or denim. It also matches well with a striped T-shirt. To avoid looking too casual, you may match your khaki with a T-shirt that may carry a special detail. You may also try special buckles, leather accents or stitching.

Some good khaki pieces are available at InStyle where you can find genuine GAP, Old Navy and Banana Republic pieces. There you can try black pieces, corals, deep sand tones and perhaps shady grays. Mix a dark denim piece with a khaki shirt, for instance.

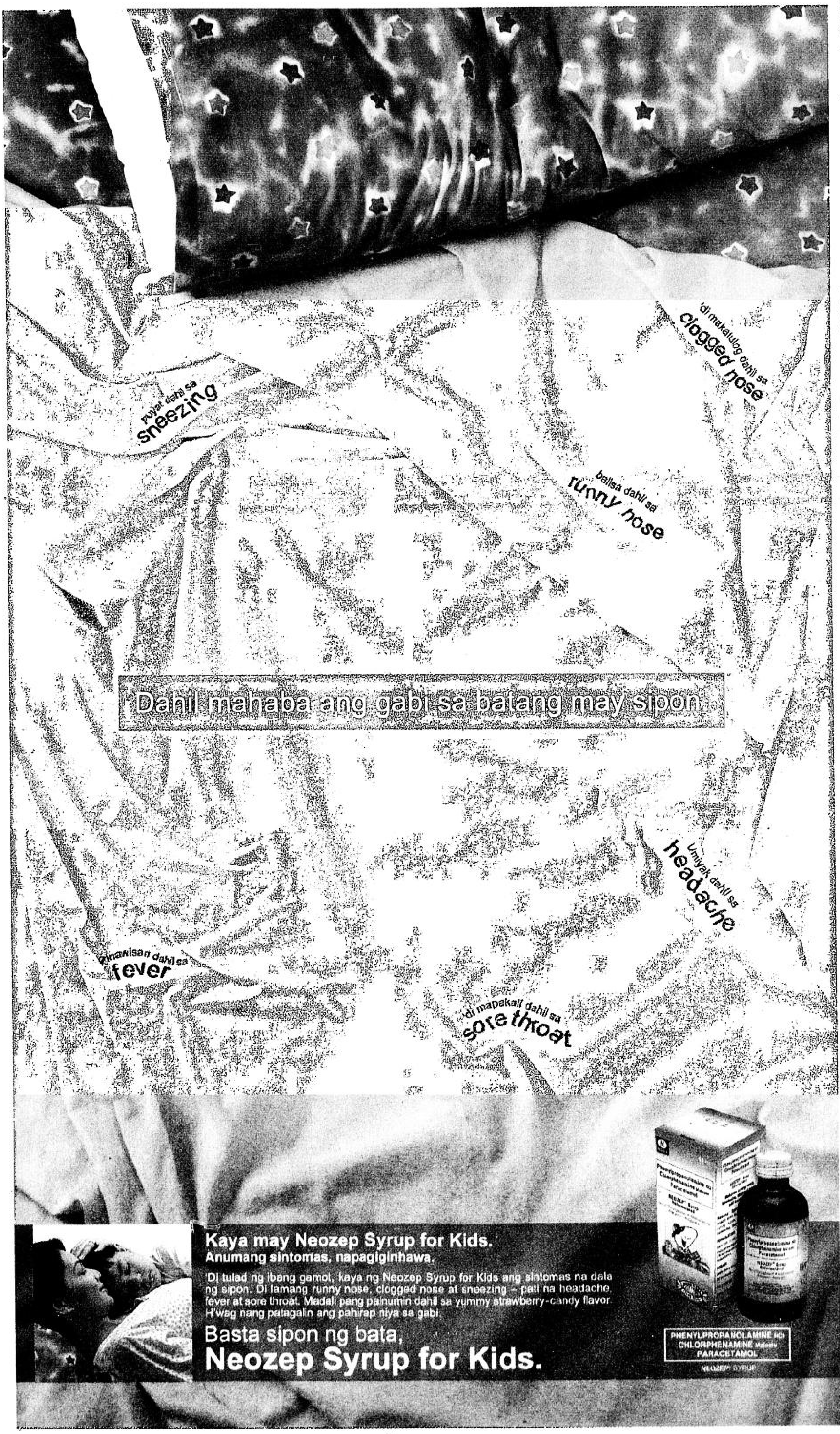
Try different shades of khaki. By trying on a blend of sand, a little bit of green and a mixture of orange, you break away from the jungle fever.

E-mail the author at unit36d@hotmail.com

ALL ITEMS FROM INSTYLE, 2/F GLORIETTA II
(FORMERLY BENNIGAN'S)



STRETCH sand-colored T-shirt, P1,225, Banana Republic; khaki green pants with leather accents, P2,595, GAP



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Neozep Syrup for Kids.

Denim renaissance

DENIM is experiencing a re-vival, so complement your old faithful jeans with a seductive top and kitten heels. This season has also cast distressed, ripped or faded denim into the mix, which many celebrities have been wearing. The lighter the denim, the more expensive the look. The jeans could be paired with a ladylike top for a street-smart look. Glitter has also been a vital embellishment, along with appliqués. Studded denims worn by Madonna in the '80s are paired with baby tees for the ingenue look.

Be fashionably different with new Italian designs

LINEA Italia Group (LIG) offers endless possibilities for those who want to look fashionably different this year with its latest offering.

Although former Bb. Pilipinas-Universe now part-time actress, painter and freelance makeup artist Ninna Ricci Alagao describes her personal style as gothic chic, LIG's latest collection allowed her to transform herself from naughty (vamping with nothing on but a Pinko intimate apparel and floor-length denim skirt with a thigh-high slit) to nice (cosmopolitan chic in Pinko's red pantsuit). Genny and Sergio Soldano bags and ManuManu, Ripa and Alta Moda shoes complemented the former beauty queen's different looks.

The new collection, which chair Freddy Panicucci personally chose during his trip to Italy, is available at Linea Italia 6750, Linea Italia Alabang and Prime Linea Cebu and SM Megamall. Bags are sold at Linea Italia 6750, Prima Linea, Diva and Linea Italia Alabang and SM Megamall.

Also available are the hottest fashion from Allegri Uomo & Donna and the latest men's shoe collection from Italy, from reasonably priced casual sneakers to more dressy shoes.

Meanwhile, LIG's "Price War," with selected items offered at half their prices, still rages on at Linea Italia 6750, Versace Jeans Couture (Greenbelt), Prima Linea (Greenbelt, SM Megamall, Ayala Center Cebu), Linea Italia (SM Megamall, Ayala Center Cebu), Linea Uomo (SM Megamall, SM Cebu and Park Square I), Uomo Tu (Greenbelt, Ayala Center Cebu), Viva (SM Megamall, SM Cebu), Capolinea (Greenbelt, SM Cebu) and Corso Marconi at Marconi corner Morse Streets, Makati City (main branch), Festival Supermall Alabang, Robinsons Galleria, SM Manila, Cebu and the new Corso Marconi Bacolod.

HIP JACKETS MAKE COOL DAYS WARM
As the cool weather lingers, check out the jacket collection at the Girls Teens Wear Department of all SM stores. The jackets are young, hip and loaded with attitude. They are sleeker, shorter and go well with denim, twill and stretch fabrics. Jazzed up with zippers, pockets and studs, the jackets are great for day tripping or a fun evening in town.

Bag store opens new branch in March

ALFA Bag Specialty Shop will open its fourth outlet at 3/F Robinsons Place Ermita on March 14. Special discounts and gifts will be given away to the first 50 customers.

The store will offer durable travel bags, stylish document cases and trendy ladies' and men's bags as well as leather wallets, cardholders and pouches.

Alfa, now on its fourth year in the fashion retail industry, is also launching its 2002 Summer Line, "The Tropical Bliss Collection." Items in the collection are made of different materials, from lustrous jute to native *t'nalak* to classic leather.

Check out the Tropical Bliss Collection at Alfa Stores in Robinsons Galleria, Festival Super Mall, SM Centerpoint and, by March 14, Robinsons Place Ermita.

Designers present latest in resort wear

THREE of Manila's top designers will unveil the latest in resort wear during the finals of Boracay Bodies Model Search 2002, March 8-9, at the Sun Village Beachfront.

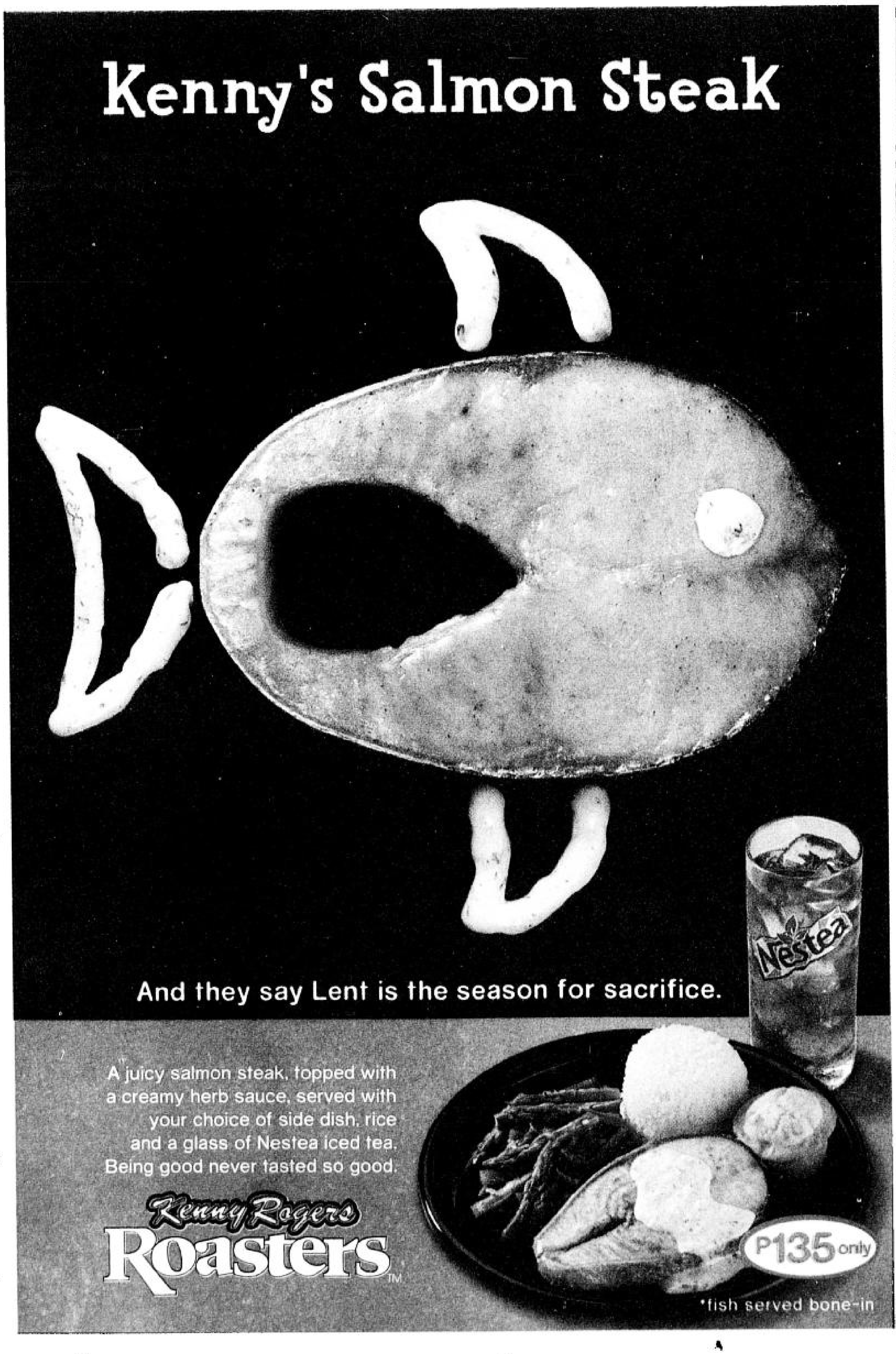
Bergamo, Mike de la Rosa and Efren Ocampo, all well-known names in the fashion scene, present their forecast for resort wear this year through the 20 finalists in the Boracay competition.

This year, the designers' ideas for resort dressing will focus on fluid lines and pastel colors. Fused with elegance and cosmopolitan chic, the designs will echo the laid-back and breezy atmosphere of the tropics.

Complementing the original resort wear designs is elegant footwear from Figlia and Marie Nicole. B Salon of Boracay will do the candidates' makeup.

Jomar Fleras' Pride Exchange will provide the swimwear of the finalists.

The Boracay Bodies Model Search 2002 will be directed by Robbie Carmona, with Alex Van Hagen as official photographer. Call 813-1338, 893-9355 and 816-3109.



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Halter tops are tops

BACKLESS top with zebra prints

SHOW off a little skin and those sexy, sensuous shoulders with Robinsons Department Store's (RDS) collection of halter, off-shoulders, tube and spaghetti-strapped tops.

They're great for gimmicks and for those "paint-the-town-red" nights. Sizzle in a backless top with zebra prints or a tube blouse and pair them with your favorite jeans.

Assymetric blouses are also hot on RDS list.

Here's more: These great-looking tops are available at pocket-friendly prices—from P195 to P265.

Get one (or two) on your next visit to RDS in Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Place Manila, Novaliches, Imus, Cebu, Bacolod, Iloilo, Robinsons Metro East, Robinsons Starmills Pampanga, Tutuban Center, Starmall Shaw, Metropolis Star Alabang, Waltermart Sta. Rosa and Gen. Trias.

ABSTRACT asymmetric blouse

Soft, subtle colors will be season's choice

THREE Custom Color Specialists (3C's) predicts Spring 2002 tints will mean full, defined brows while cheeks, lids and lips will be downplayed in neutral shades of pink, bronze and beige.

Brow powder will be in the 3C's shades #1-6 for that defined, eye-catching look while eyeshadow will be in warm white (base shade or highlighter), cool nutmeg (soft contour shade) and bronze (for a spring-fresh sheen).

Dark brown eye liner will give a soft definition while rose creme to powder blush will give the cheeks a subtle flush. A barely there look will be achieved with a cool beige lip gloss while warm pink lip liner will give a natural definition.

For festive occasions, the 3C's newest collection, the Bahama Lip Color Trio, offers party shades named after favorite island drinks: Mai Tai, rich, juicy orange; Pink Lady, hot fuschia with sexy opalescent shimmer; and Planter's Punch, a rich and luscious blue red.

3C's also introduces Ready-to-Wear Powder Eye Shadows, the most comprehensive collection of eye color on the market and designed to help every woman look her very best. Using a unique wet/dry formula, the collection offers the full spectrum of colors.

Meanwhile, to mask tired and blood-shot eyes, the 3C's Clarifier, a nude-colored eye pencil, is an instant pick-me-up. It quickly "makes" red, hazy eyes brighter, whiter and more beautiful.

3Cs products are developed by Trae Bodge, Scott Catto and Chad Hayduk, with over 30 years of combined experience in the world of beauty. They are available online at www.threecustom.com.

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BMW 316i courtesy of Prestige Cars, Inc. Per BFAD Permit No. 087807, Series of 2001

Safe hair straightening now available for kids

TOP hairdresser Ricky Reyes responds to the clamor of many parents to straighten their daughter's hair to make it more manageable with PermaStraight Kids.

The new technology allows hair to be straightened using a safe process that does not damage the hair and scalp.

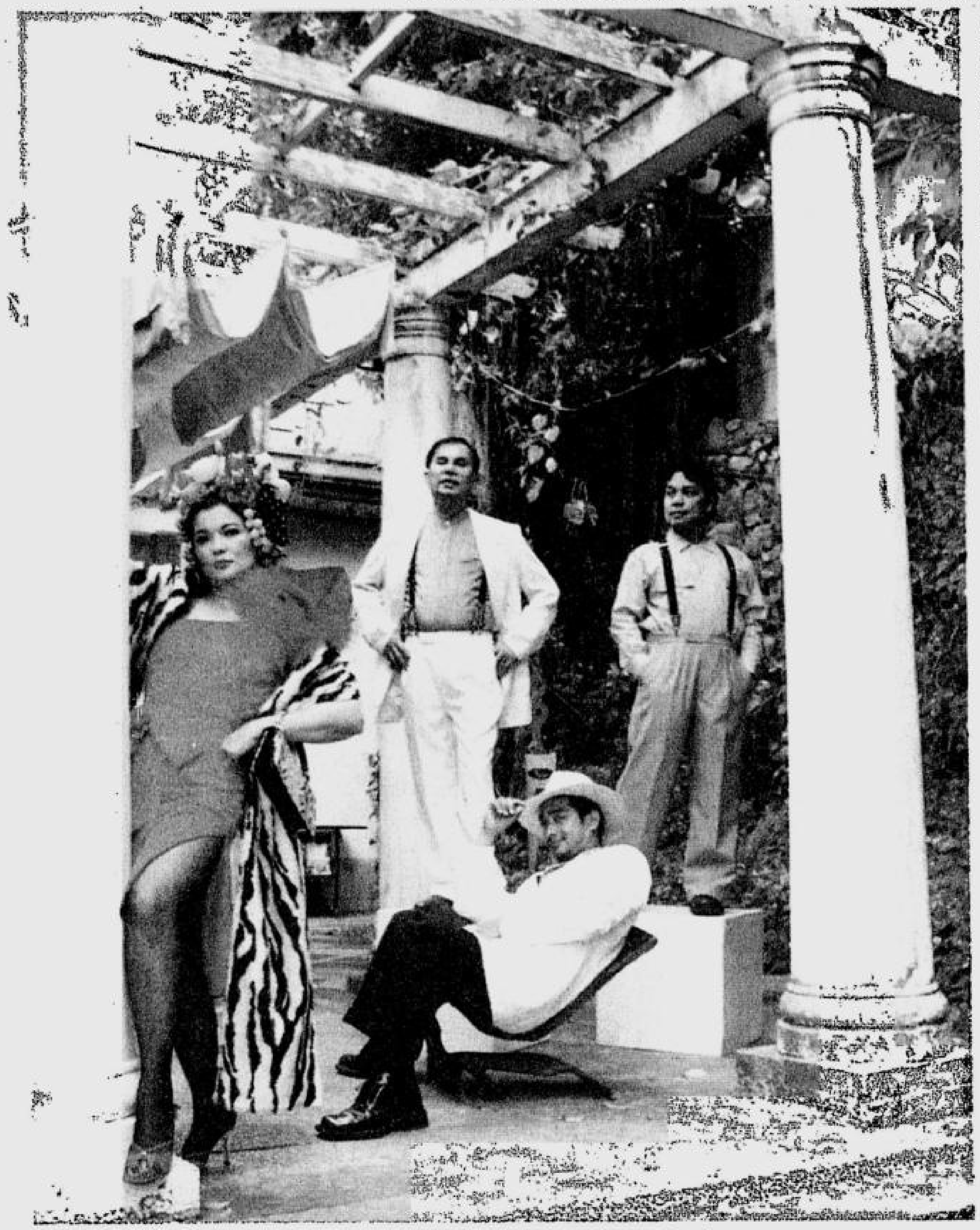
"Since we introduced PermaStraight last year, women have been coming to us not only for themselves but for their kids, too. They say their daughters are being teased in school for having hair that looks unkempt. Since I am 100 percent sure the process is gentle, safe and mild on anybody's scalp, I decided to give in to their request," Reyes said.

PermaStraight Kids contains no harmful chemicals and uses amino acids to make the hair healthy and shiny. The process works well on children because they have virgin, uncolored hair. PermaStraight Kids is available at all Ricky Reyes salons in major Metro Manila malls.

JEFFREY Hidalgo and Cris Villonco

Calling all Maryknoll/Miriam College 'katipuneras'

MIRIAM College is sponsoring the final performance of "Alikabok" on March 2, 8 p.m. at the Music Museum in Greenhills. An original Filipino musical written by Ryan Cayabyab and Noel Balmaceda, "Alikabok" is the story of Bising Vallejo, a wealthy turn-of-the-century Filipina who discovers her love for country and evolves into a brave *katipunera* fighting for our country's independence. Produced by two alumnae—Celeste Legaspi (Coll '71) and Girlie Rodis (Coll '76), proceeds of the musical will go to the Miriam College Endowment Fund for Scholarships and Faculty Development. Call 927-2421, local 302.



PINKY Marquez in a conga outfit, and Behn Cervantes and Anton Juan are in pleat-front pants and suspenders. Raymond Bagatsing is dressed up as a gigolo.

Portrait of the costume designer as Ernest Santiago

Photos by Chito Vecina
VISUAL CONCEPT BY ALBERT AVELLANA

***"MARUNONG pa ba ako'ng gumawa ng damit?* (Do I still know how to make clothes)?" asked fashion-cum-furniture designer Ernest Santiago.**

After a long absence from the fashion field, Santiago is designing the costumes for "Larawan," the Filipino version of Nick Joaquin's "Portrait of the Artist as Filipino," which will open on Feb. 28 at the CCP Little Theater.

OLD bachelors in *americana cerrada* in cotton twill

The story is set in the 1940s, centering on two old bachelors instead of spinsters who take a fancy on a Pinoy-American gigolo of sorts.

Back in the '70s, he was known as Santiago de Manila, or Tarurits to close friend, which was a moniker for his legendary acerbic tongue (or *mataray* in Filipino). His biggest clients were women with verve such as Imee Marcos (he called her "Imacs") and Chito Madrigal Collantes.

Santiago recalls that his biggest break happened when connoisseur Don Luis Araneta gave him the nod during the Ramon Valera awards. He created a *traje de mestiza*, inspired by the Korean empire waistline. The gown was made from yards of *piña* dyed in colors from the South—fuchsia, purple, orange and gold.

Santiago takes pride in being one of the proponents of Philippine fabrics and accessories during the halcyon days of fashion in the '70s. Santiago also designed costumes for Ballet Philippines' "Tales of the Manuvu," and turned Maricel Soriano into a chic ad executive in Chito Roño's "Separada." He also won an award for costume design in "El Dulce Estranjera."

In midlife, Santiago reinvented himself by designing furniture and decorating resorts. However, he kept his patterns for his costumes. The collection came in handy. For "Larawan," Santiago got workers to construct 58 costume pieces. He says the colors are mostly in wine, red, mauve, red, pink, black, brown and green.

Santiago has been pining to return to fashion—even just to make clothes for a pictorial. "*Humanda kayo!* (Watch out)," he exclaims

But then he's a Libra. He might just change his mind.

BAGATSING wears a jersey printed shirt under a white suit while Marquez wears a rumba costume.

One of the designers who made the '70s a defining moment in Philippine fashion makes a foray into stage by recasting Nick Joaquin's classic play into chic camp

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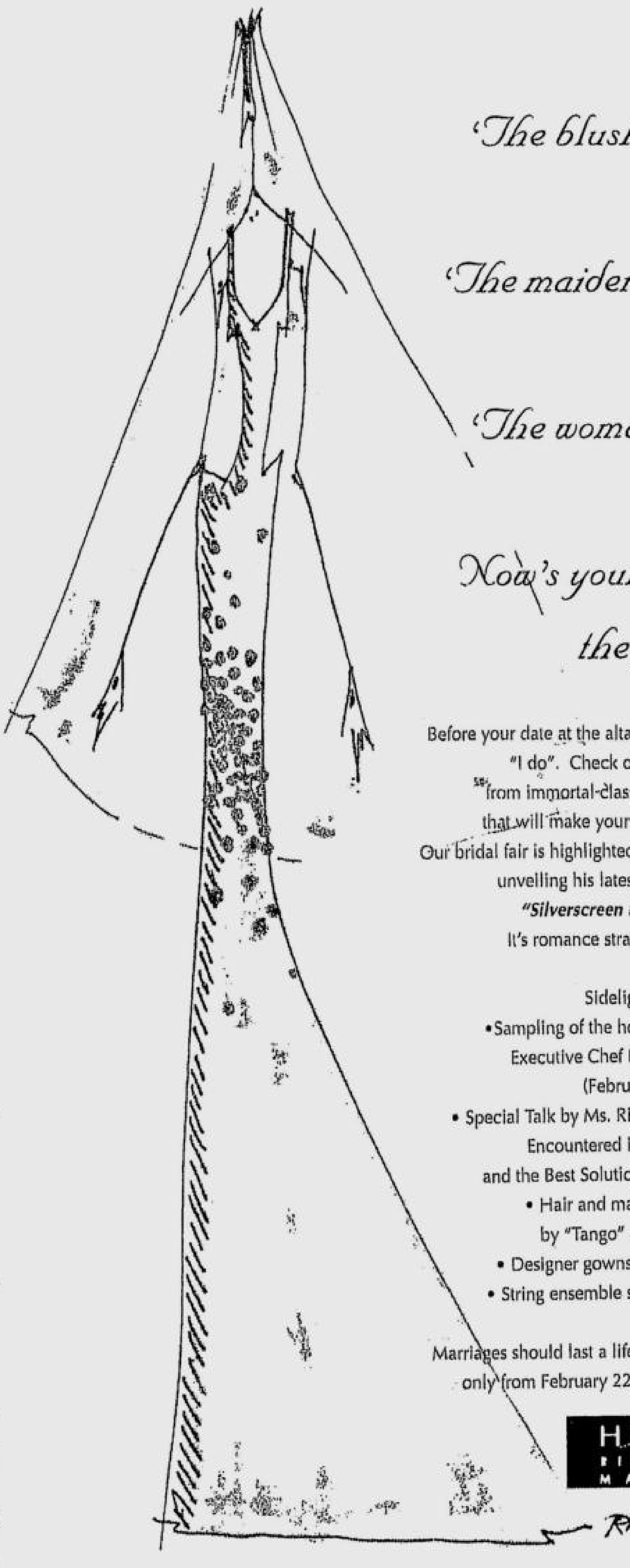

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'The maiden at the altar.'

'The woman in white.'

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Our bridal fair is highlighted by a fashion show by Rhett Eala,
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Sidelights include:
- Sampling of the hotel's food specialties with Executive Chef Hermann Grossbichler (February 23, 4pm)
- Special Talk by Ms. Rita Neri on "Frequent Problems Encountered in Wedding Planning and the Best Solutions" (February 24, 4:30pm)
- Hair and make-up demonstration by "Tango" salon (February 23)
- Designer gowns display (February 22-24)
- String ensemble serenades (February 22-24)

Marriages should last a lifetime. But this bridal fair happens only from February 22 to 24 at the Mezzanine level.

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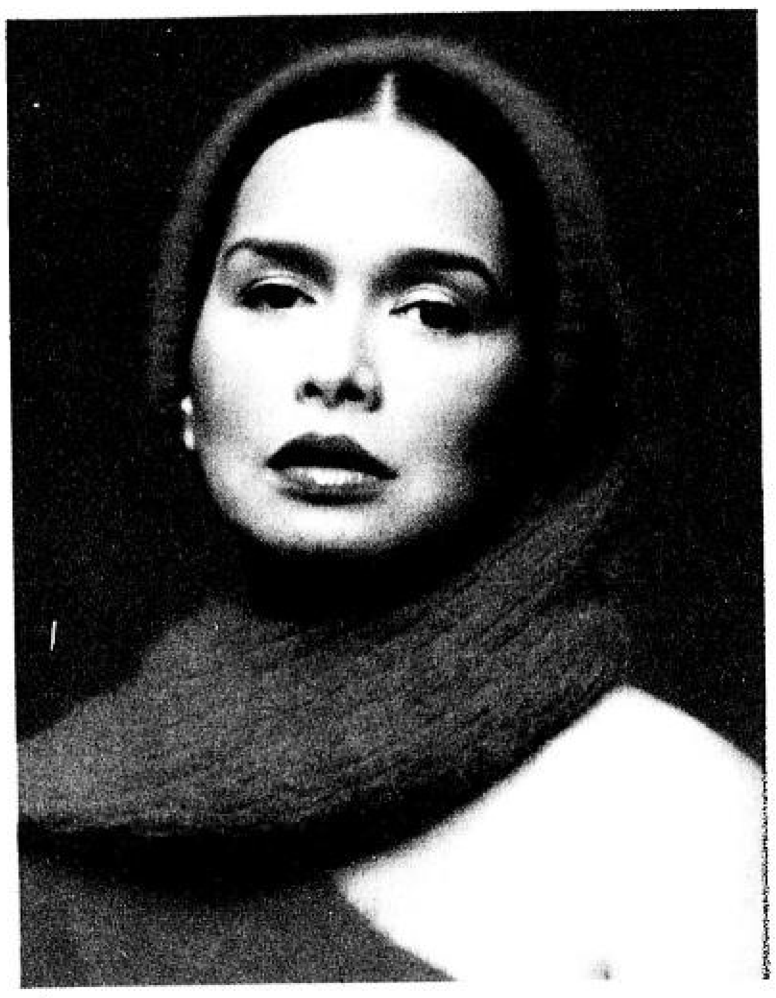


Juan Sarte

Creative director of Propaganda and training director of Fix Bench

Concept: To give a fresh look to a beauty queen or actress—dewy skin, rosy cheeks, a wash of color in the eyes and "just-bitten" lips.

Model: Melanie Marquez

Big break: Making a transition from casting director to makeup artist in a Magnolia Flavor of the Month commercial.

Memorable projects: Working with such stars as Lea Salonga, Sharon Cuneta, Vilma Santos and Rosanna Roces—including the night she walked out on the Metro Manila Film Festival Awards night.

Kit essentials: Tweezers, Shu Uemura brushes, Cinema Secrets concealer-foundation and eyelash curler to open up the eyes.

Eric Faury and Angelo Justin of Franck Provost

Concept: Natural, cutting-edge. Dark brown and lavender eye shadow with silver highlights, light pink. The hair used lots of styling products and a flat iron flipped at the ends.

Model: Lara Fabregas

Eric Faury

Big break: Working in England and learning the other side of styling in fashion shows and pictorials.

Memorable experiences: Coloring people's hair in various eclectic shades in a Paris club. By 3 a.m., the whole dance floor was a plethora of colored head. Doing projects with big clients such as Avon and Intel and, doing an exhibit with Neal Oshima at Alliance Française.

Kit essentials: Carries two suitcases filled with hairpieces, irons and rods. Grease, with Spritz Forte, is his security blanket.

Angelo Justin

Big break: Doing the makeup of Sushmita Sen, who went on to win the Miss Universe'94 crown.

Memorable projects: Winning the Hair Asia competition, ladies' cut, in the late '80s; doing Anna Nicole Smith's hair and makeup when she visited Manila.

Kit essentials: Shiseido foundation, false eyelashes and glue, Angelique eyebrow pencil ("It's cheap but good. I've been using it since the '70s."), Shiseido lipsticks.

> The artists stick to the basic rule: Cosmetics should enhance features and the personality

The great makeup challenge

By Marge C. Enriquez
Photos by Jun de Leon

EXPRESS yourself. The INQUIRER asked several makeup artists, whose bylines have graced our powerful shoots, to make their own concepts and direct the pictorial themselves.

The results were diverse: Some went wild while others preferred elegant restraint. These artists have their own specialties.

Many years ago, Henri Calayag set the trend for the clean finish when everybody was going with the over-the-top makeup. Aside from his artistic streak, he's got the business savvy to set up his own salon at Rustan's flagship store.

Patrick Rosas has a passion for widening the scope of his experiences, ranging from theater work to collaborations with top designers and doing the forthcoming presidential wedding. His knowledge in fashion design has helped him coordinate the right hair and makeup look. His biggest reward is establishing good relationships based on hard work, self-effacement and honesty.

A former adman, Juan Sarte used to watch movie stars on the silver screen. Now he's privy to their beauty secrets. Sarte, who is normally associated with young clients, chose the mature and sophisticated Melanie Marquez to be his model. He stamped his trademark dewy look on the former beauty queen.

Frenchman Eric Faury's fantasy hairstyles always focus on an aesthetic element, be it color, proportion or texture. For this shoot, Faury preferred to go "commercial" by doing a mussed-up look that needs lots of styling products. Angelo Justin has studied in Europe to master haircutting, makeup and haircoloring techniques.

For any international hair show, Danny Katalbas is a shoo-in for his unrestrained imagination. Eric Maningat is known for dramatic makeup, especially for black-and-white photography.

Patrick Rosas

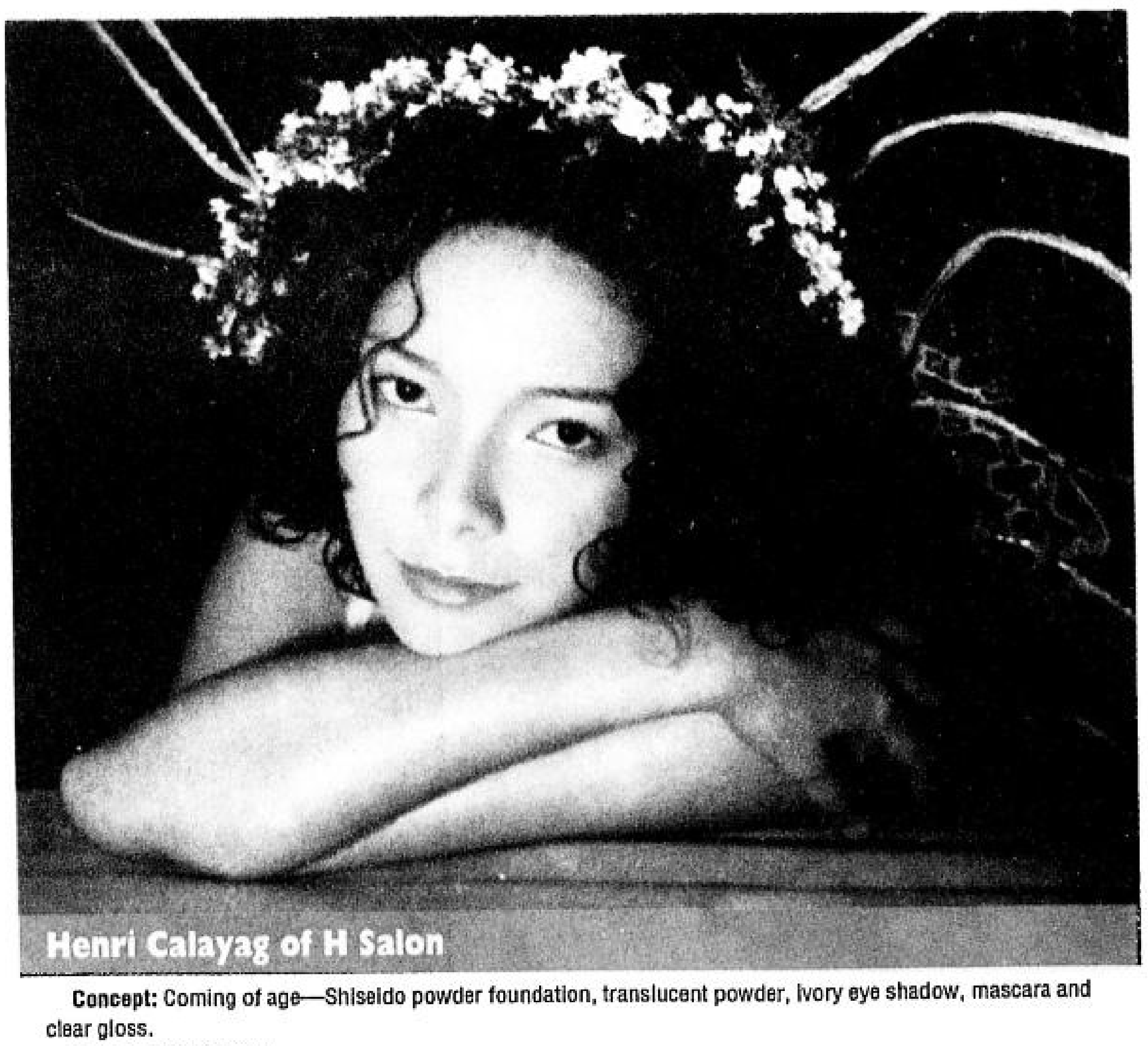
Concept: Inspired by Brooke Shields in "Pretty Baby"—shaped eyebrows, no eye shadow and lilac lipstick by Anna Bayle. Diamond brooches highlight the look.

Model: Jennifer Dittmeier of Acquire Agency

Big break: After studying design at New York's Fashion Institute of Technology, he was discovered by Josie Natori who saw his potential and suggested he try out as a makeup artist. Doors opened after the first Asean Design Show in 1995.

Memorable projects: Working with Junko Kashino in Beijing and in a Paris pret-a-porter show; doing a Salvatore Ferragamo show and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation fashion show; travels to meet makeup masters; conceiving the book "Patrick Rosas: Images"; doing Angela Montenegro's makeup from the *pamanhikan* until her wedding day; most important, building relationships with clients, friends, designers, models and the press based on trust and cooperation.

Kit essentials: Eyelash curler, sable brushes, Makeup Forever foundation in Matte Velvet, lipsticks by Nars, MUFE, M.A.C. and Anna Bayle.



Henri Calayag of H Salon

Concept: Coming of age—Shiseido powder foundation, translucent powder, ivory eye shadow, mascara and clear gloss.

Model: Reana Halley

Big break: Becoming a last-minute replacement for Tovar and Oribé in a Sunsilk commercial.

Memorable projects: Doing the Sari-Sari pictorial with Neal Oshima in Paris; primming up fashion icon Paloma Picasso when she visited Manila to launch her fragrance; doing Shiseido's launch in 1991 and relaunch in 2001; doing Inno Sotto's fashion show in Paris; going to international locations for Kamiseta's ad campaigns (except Sydney).

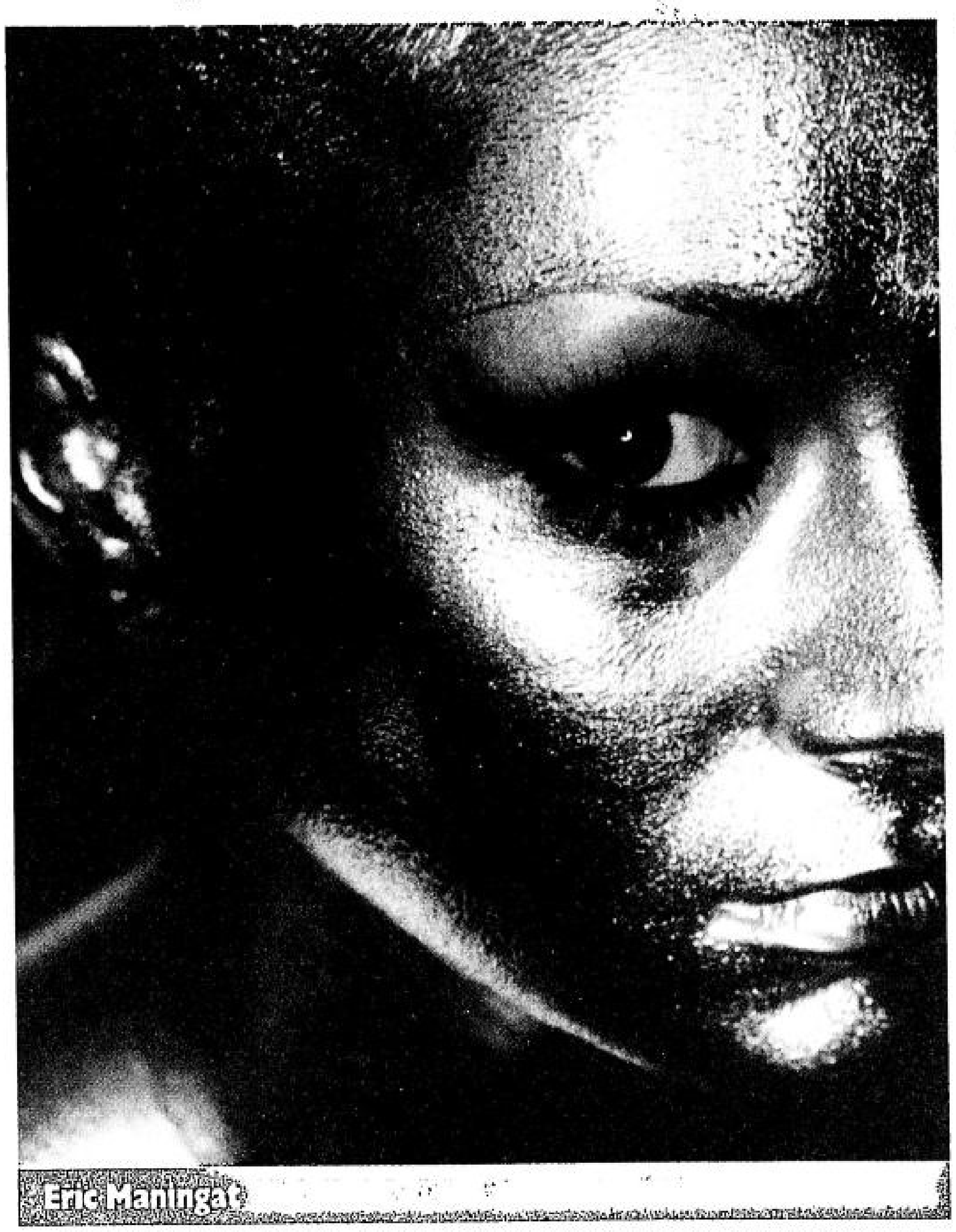
Kit essentials: Scissors, makeup brushes from Inoui, Laura Dorf, Shiseido, Trish McEvoy, Evian spritzer, a pouch that contains lip gloss, concealer, Pharmacia Sta. Maria cologne.

THE GREAT/ p.D7

The great makeup challenge

From page D6

Other artists see makeup as an escape. Fantasy is about coverage and illusion



Eric Maningat

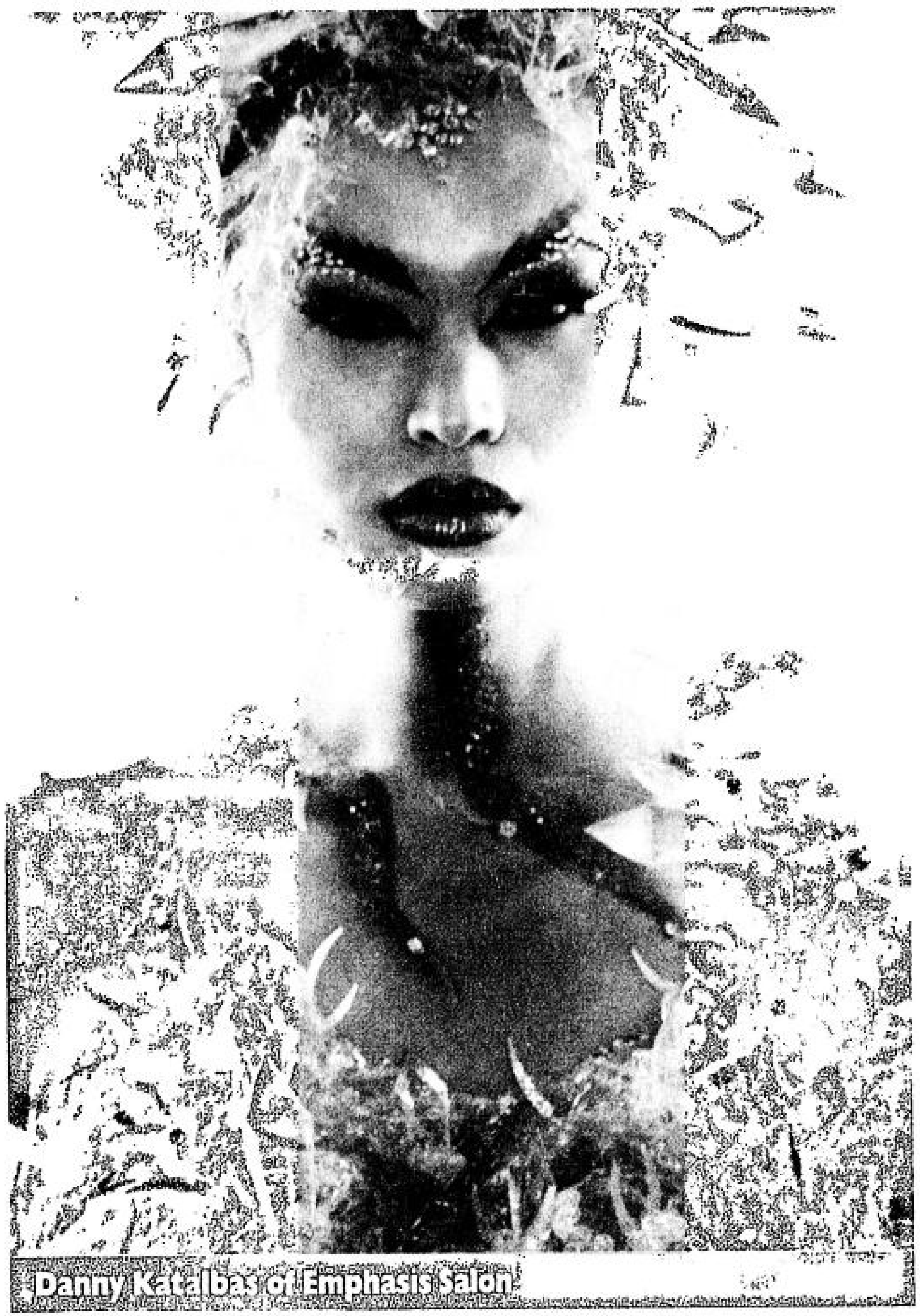
Concept: Platinum pulchritude—hypoallergenic silver paint all over the model with emphasis on big eyes, framed by fuchsia eye shadow and custom-made false eyelashes.

Model: Romina Jeffrey of Acquire Agency

Big break: Working with photographer Wig Tysmans and the Fashion Watch series.

Memorable projects: Working with top designers, such as Auggie Cordero in his bridal show and Inno Sotto in "Made to Dream" and his retrospective; doing the Emporio Armani show; and collaborating with Eddie Baddeo.

Kit essentials: M.A.C. foundation for full coverage, Chanel lipsticks, Diego della Palma eye pencils, brushes.



Danny Katalbas of Emphasis Salon

(Assisted by Lourd Ryan Ramos)

Concept: Snow Queen. Headdress encrusted with crystals and rhinestones, extended eyebrows and glittery makeup.

Model: Jonil Benitez

Big break: Becoming the champion in the fantasy category of an international hair and makeup competition in 1991.

Memorable projects: Doing shows for Patis Tesoro and Ad Asia; being a champion in Hair Asia '93 and the Pantene Asia-Pacific 2001 in the fantasy category.

Kit essentials: Joe Basco foundation, Givenchy eyebrow pencil, YSL loose powder and Makeup Forever lip glosses.

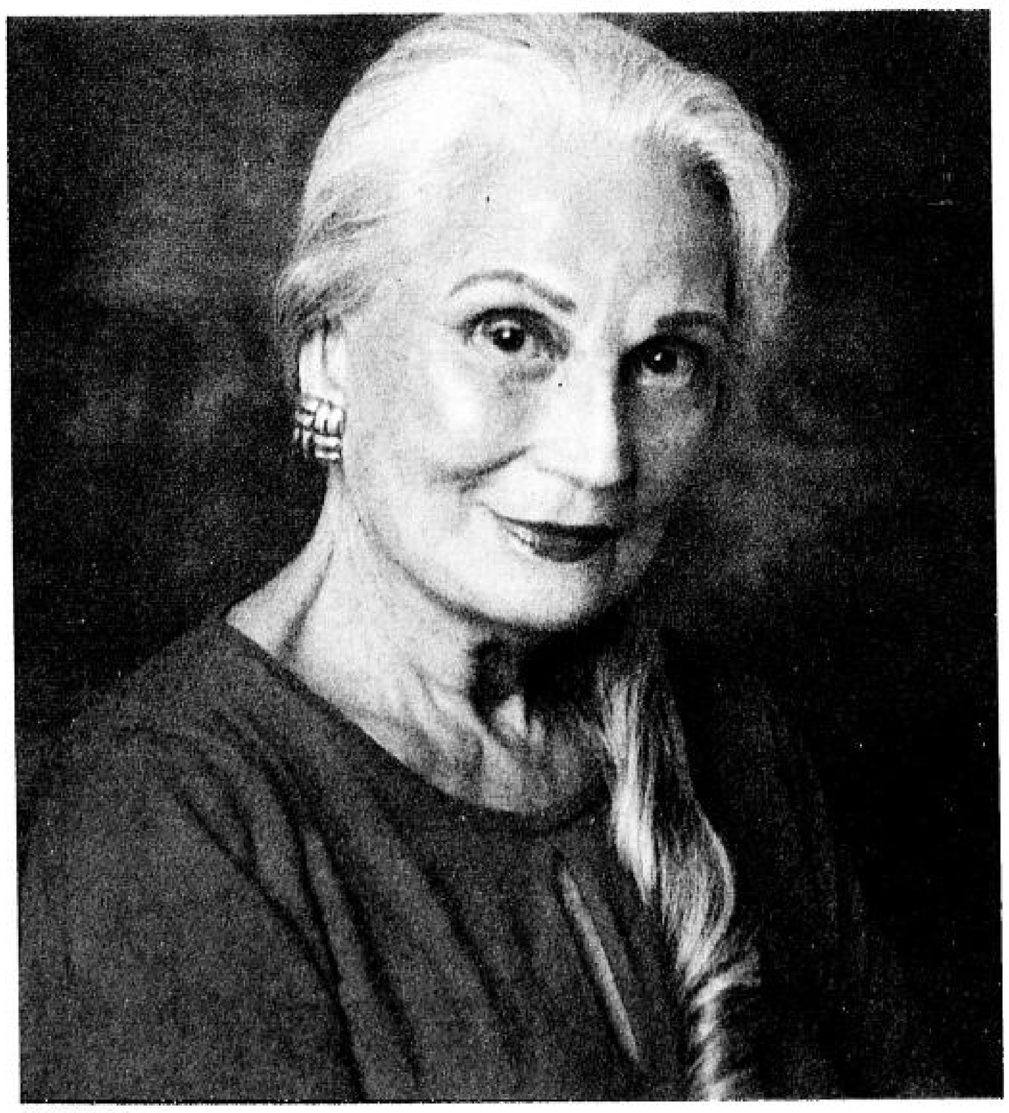
Seeing red

Photos by Patrick Uy

WHO says women of a certain age can't be adventurous with makeup?

One day, we invited Elena Roces and Teresita Liboro to have a sitting with Patrick Uy for a shoot. These women are known for their spunk and sense of style. Rocky Gimenez of Cocoy Salon experimented with Chanel's Aqualumiere palette of reds and purples. The wine range is an allusion to age. It gets better over time.

TERESITA Liboro



ELENA Roces

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Heavenly Fish Meals

P79

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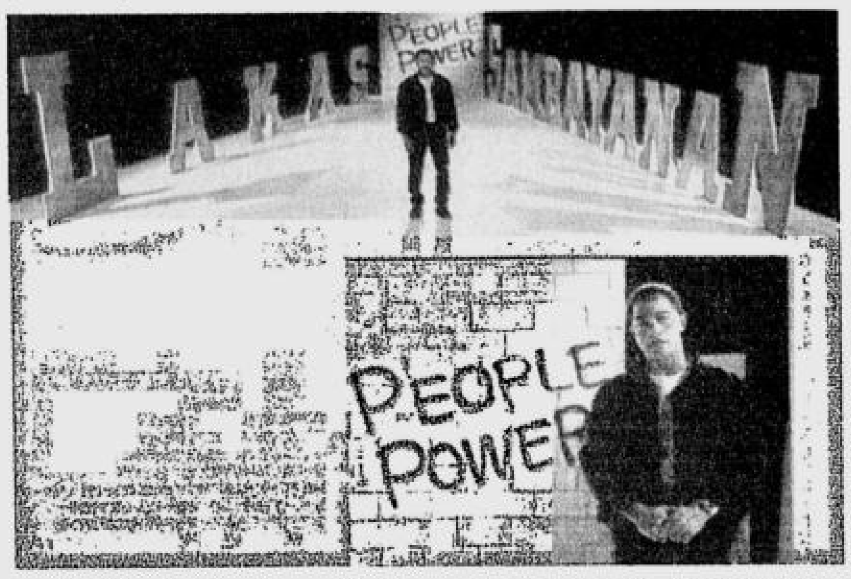
A different role for Cesar Montano

MONTANO (right) joins Foundation for Worldwide People Power Inc. trustees Doreen Fernandez (seated), Eugenia D. Apostol, Edilberto C. de Jesus and Jose Abueva.

PHOTO BY BETOY JOHNSON

AWARD-WINNING dramatic and action star Cesar Montano lends his popular appeal to the video documentary "Lakas Sambayanan" through his on-camera narrative and voice-overs when it airs primetime, Feb. 24 on Channel 2 to mark the anniversary of People Power in the Philippines.

Intended to be the "definitive" documentary on the People Power experience, "Lakas Sambaya-nan" chronicles the roots and development of People Power from the First Quarter Storm of 1970 to the ouster of President Joseph Estrada in January 2001. Noted academicians and social and political scientists provide analytical commentary as well as personal insight.



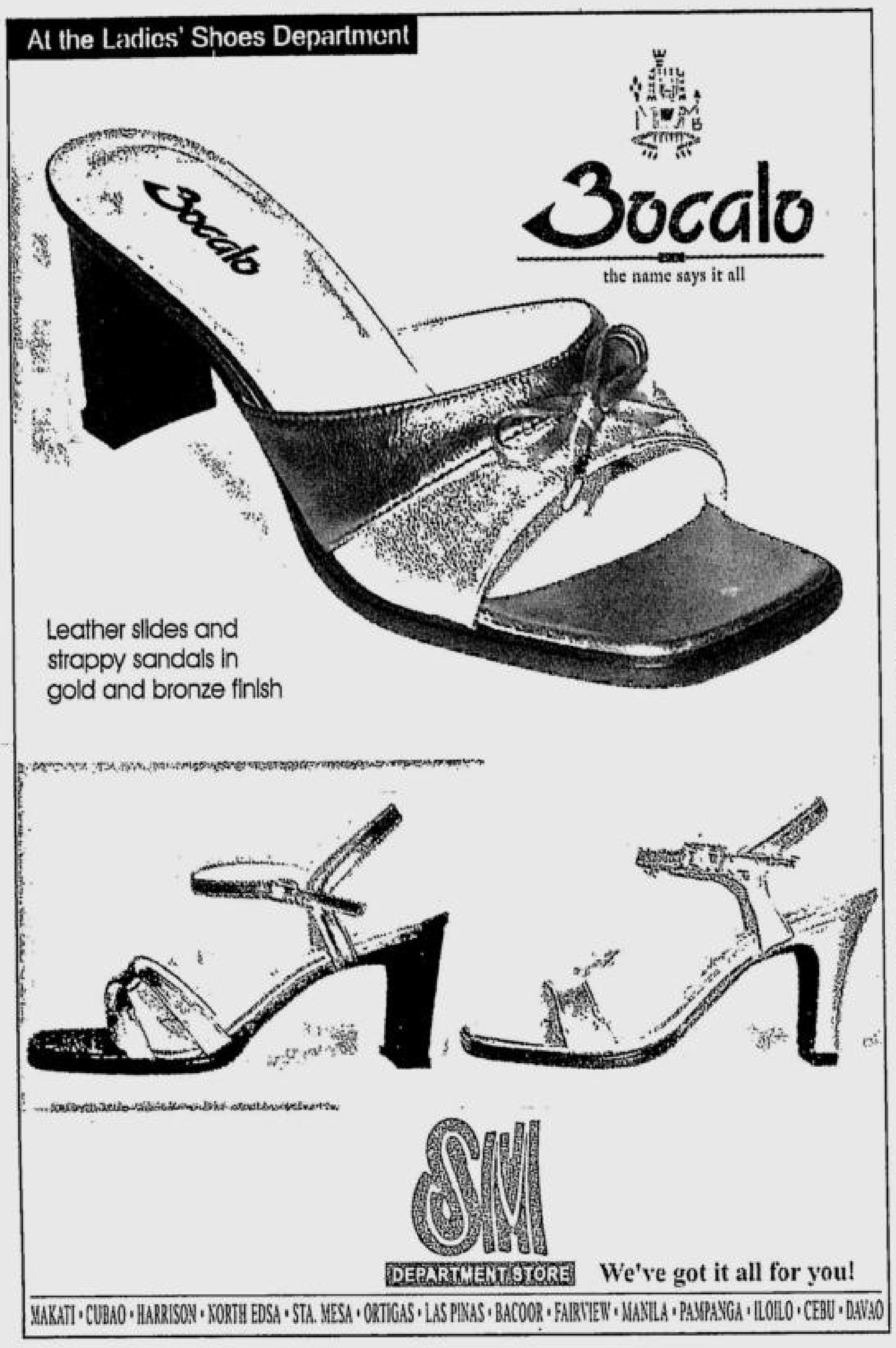
Complementing the analytical commentary and personal insight by noted academicians and social and political scientists are extensively researched archival audio and video footage and the personal and eyewitness accounts of leading personalities, as well as ordinary citizens who lived through the most significant events of the period.

Some of the personalities who gave interviews on camera are Prof. Carol Hernandez, Prof. Walden Bello, Fr. Joe Dizon, Maris Diokno, Fr. Robert Reyes, Prof. Randy David, Rene Ofreneo, Butch Dalisay, Dr. Jose Abueva, Charito Planas, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, Guillermo Luz, Judy Taguiwalo, Willie Nepomuceno, lawyer Marichu Lambino, Christian Monsod, Crispin Beltran, Rigoberto Tiglao, Col. Proceso Maligalig, Rep. Gerry Salapuddin and PDI editor in chief Letty Jimenez Magsanoc.

Through "Lakas Sambayanan," the Foundation for Worldwide People Power intends to reach the widest audience possible, particularly the generations who were born after Marcos' military rule.

The Foundation for Worlwide People Power produced "Lakas Sambayanan" with Eugenia D. Apostol and lawyer Felicitas A. Arroyo as executive producers.

Butch Nolasco, whose "Jose Rizal: Ang Buhay ng Isang Bayani" won the Gawad CCP Award for Best Documentary in 1997, directed from a script of Jose "Pete" Lacaba, with research support from Karen Lacson.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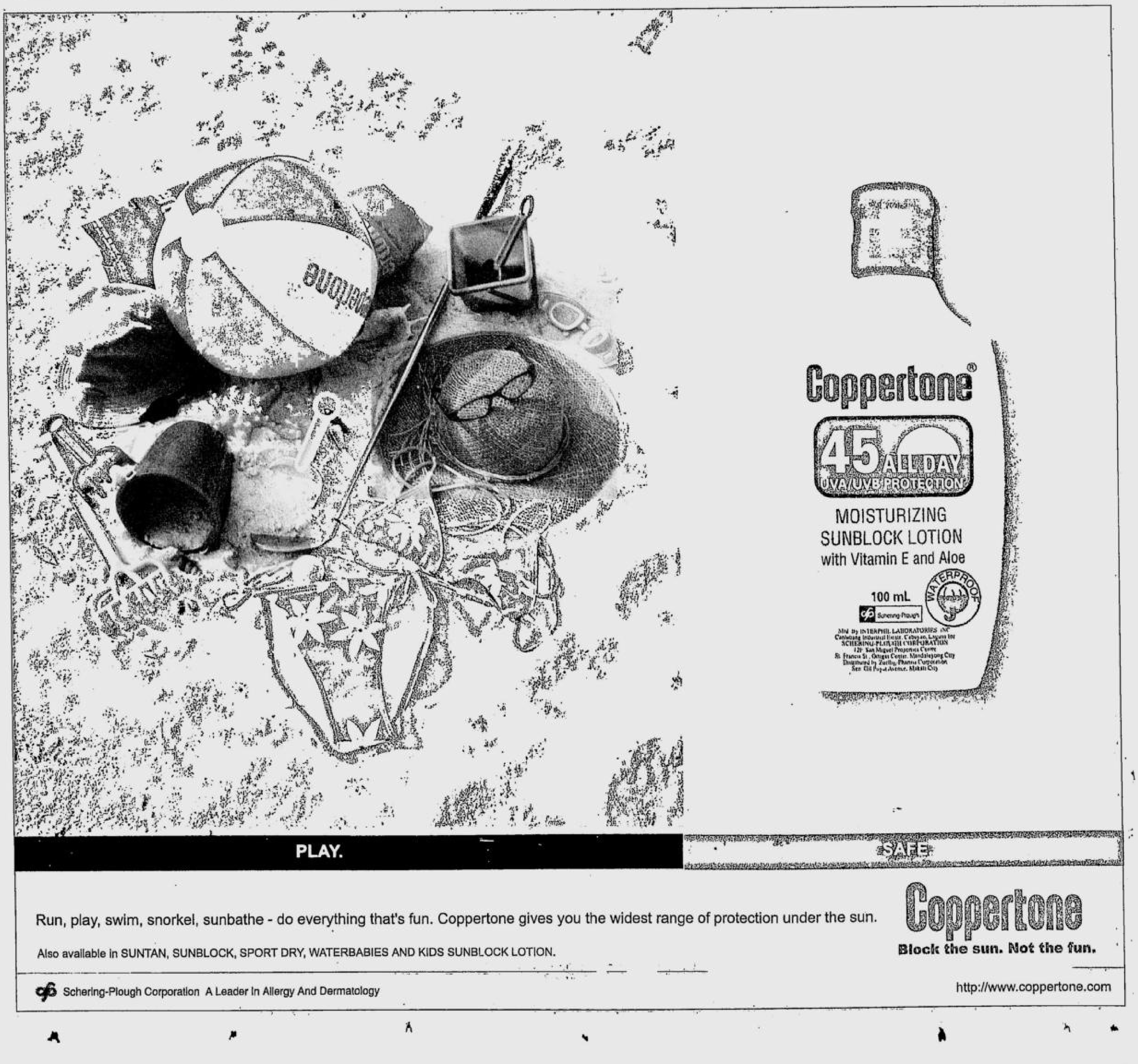
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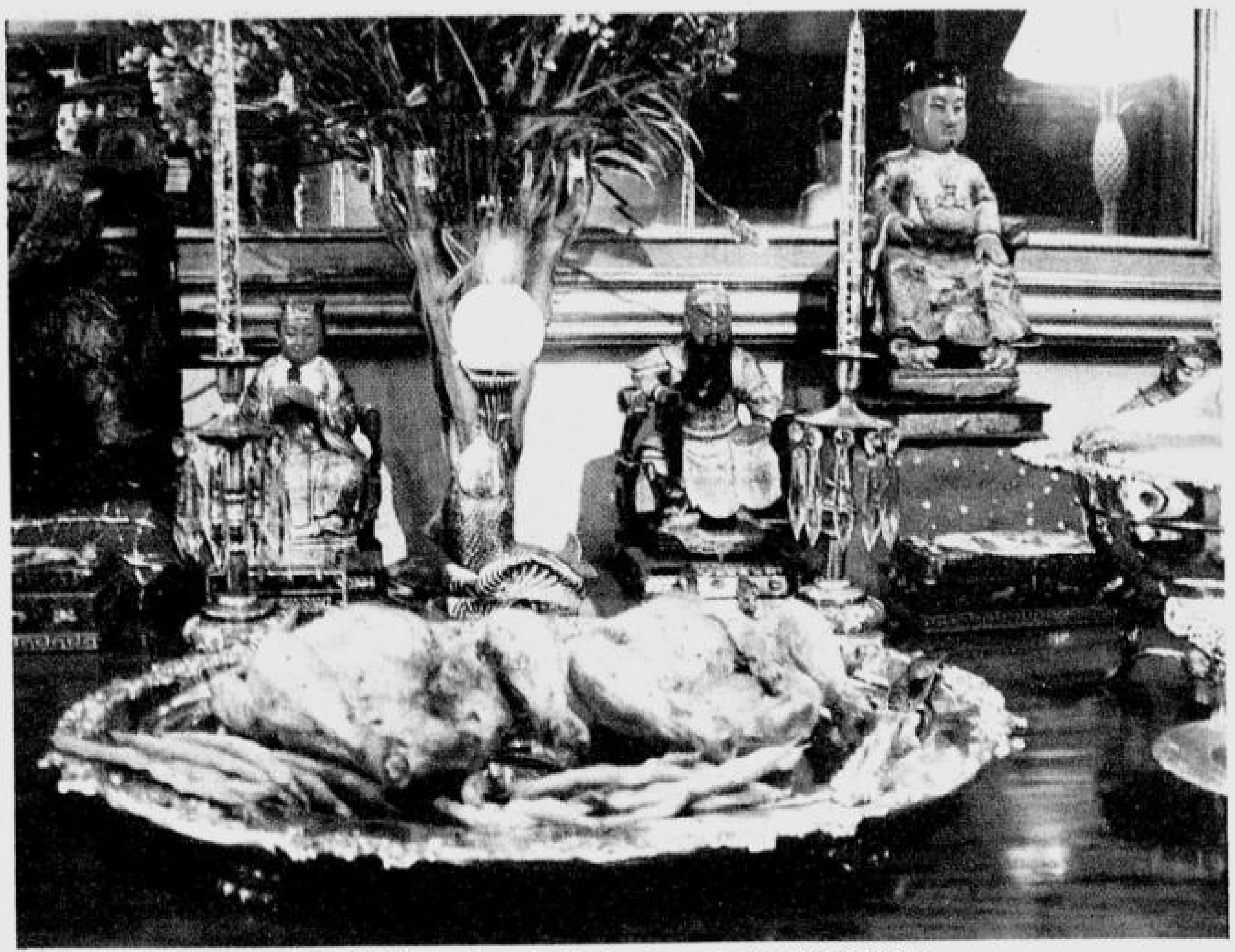


ROASTED Chicken served on heirloom silver, in the background are oriental icons

The other sid

By Jose Javier Reyes
Contributor
Photos by Chito Vecina
VISUAL CONCEPT: ALBERT AVELLANA

HE is the only human being (aside from members of my family) whom I have known for the longest time during this earthly existence. We have been friends since we were 8 years old. Anyone who crosses our paths or is willing to listen to that beaten-down anecdote about how we met on Valhalla Street, Pasay City almost four decades ago would get a concise history of our friendship.

Since then, from our *korto* and *sando* days all through college, we have been best of friends—going through the usual quota of dilemmas and watching our hairlines recede or our waistlines swell to middle-age specifications.

Manny Castañeda is a laugh-a-minute. He has a compulsion to perform and he does not require a stage or a set to go into a whole universe of routines, gags and even comic arias. As a matter of fact, someone once said that he is twice as funny offstage than he is in front of cameras or a paying audience. He will do anything (and my writing technique for emphasis will fall short in capturing the true essence of *anything*) to keep a conversation skirting the level of the insane.

Gay repertoire

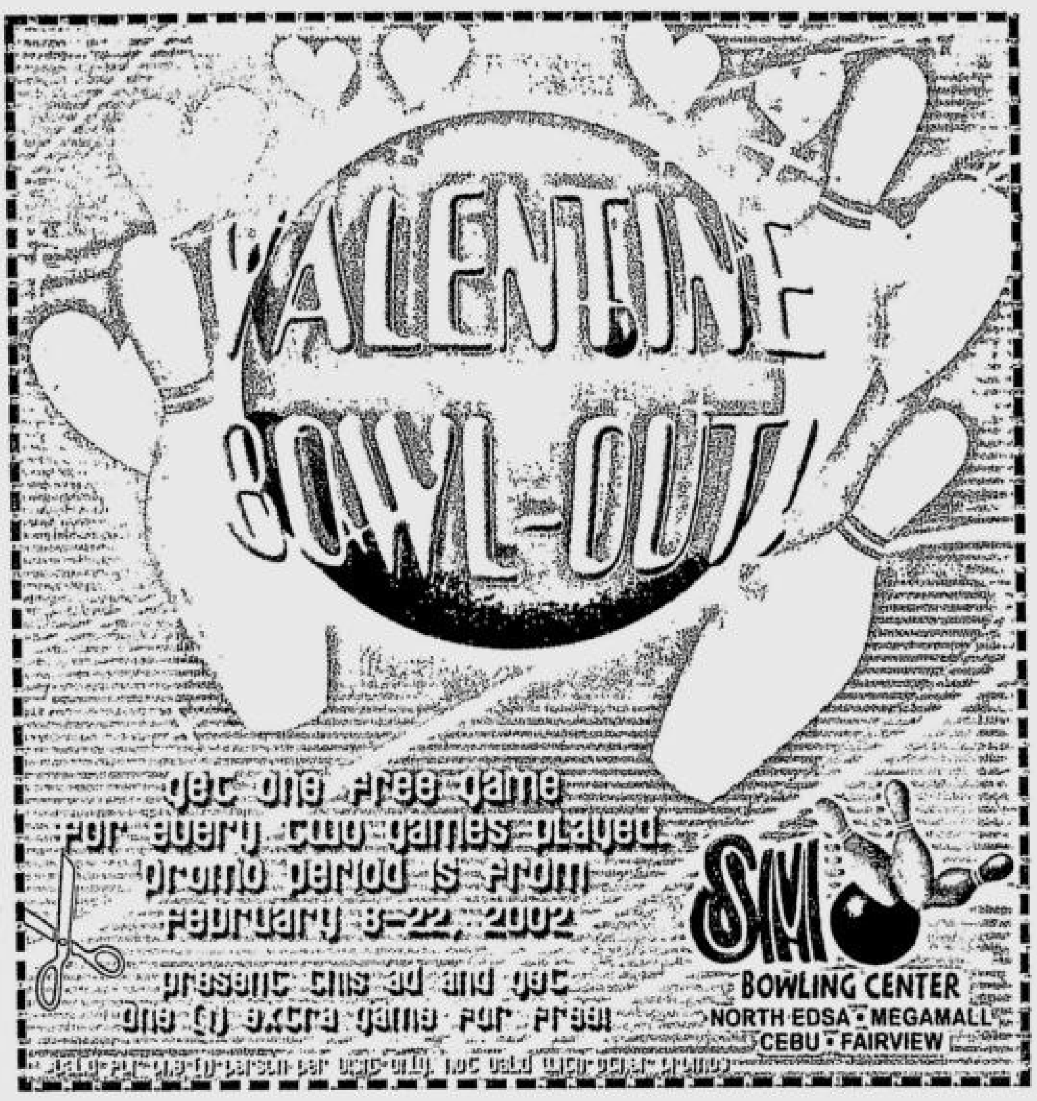
Of course he is most familiar with the rest of the Philippine population for the repertoire of gay roles he has performed since he immortalized the role of Julie in Orlando Nadres' "Hanggang Dito na Lang at Maraming Salamat." Yes, theater history will include his name as the *other* actor who shared stellar billing with Lino Brocka and Bembol Roco in that Peta production that went on for ages.

And for the even greater number of mortals whose only concept of culture is their media savvy, Manny has become some sort of archetype, a kind of generic performer that you equate with all those *bakla* roles created within the permissible limits by the MTRCB. Name it and he has done it: *baklang* best friend, *baklang manikurista*, *baklang* designer, *baklang* director, *baklang manananggal*... He has even done a *baklang* goon (a real stretch and challenge to his acting talent).

After a while he declared that he has developed an embedded Rolodex in his brain where he only has to push a button and he morphs into the *bakla* character demanded by the script. Well, one afternoon right before Christmas Eve of so many solar cycles ago, I chanced on a television drama anthology where he portrayed a rare dramatic role: a *bakla* dying of AIDS. The only problem was that during this period in his life (pre-Xenical days, definitely), willing suspension of disbelief was not enough to accept this thespian, displaying such sincere emotions with tears swelling in his eyes, as a dying Camille. That episode became a bench-

THE OTHER/ p.E2

> Manny Castañeda and I have known each other since kids. We have gone through the usual quota of dilemmas, watching our hairlines recede and our waistlines swell to middle-age specifications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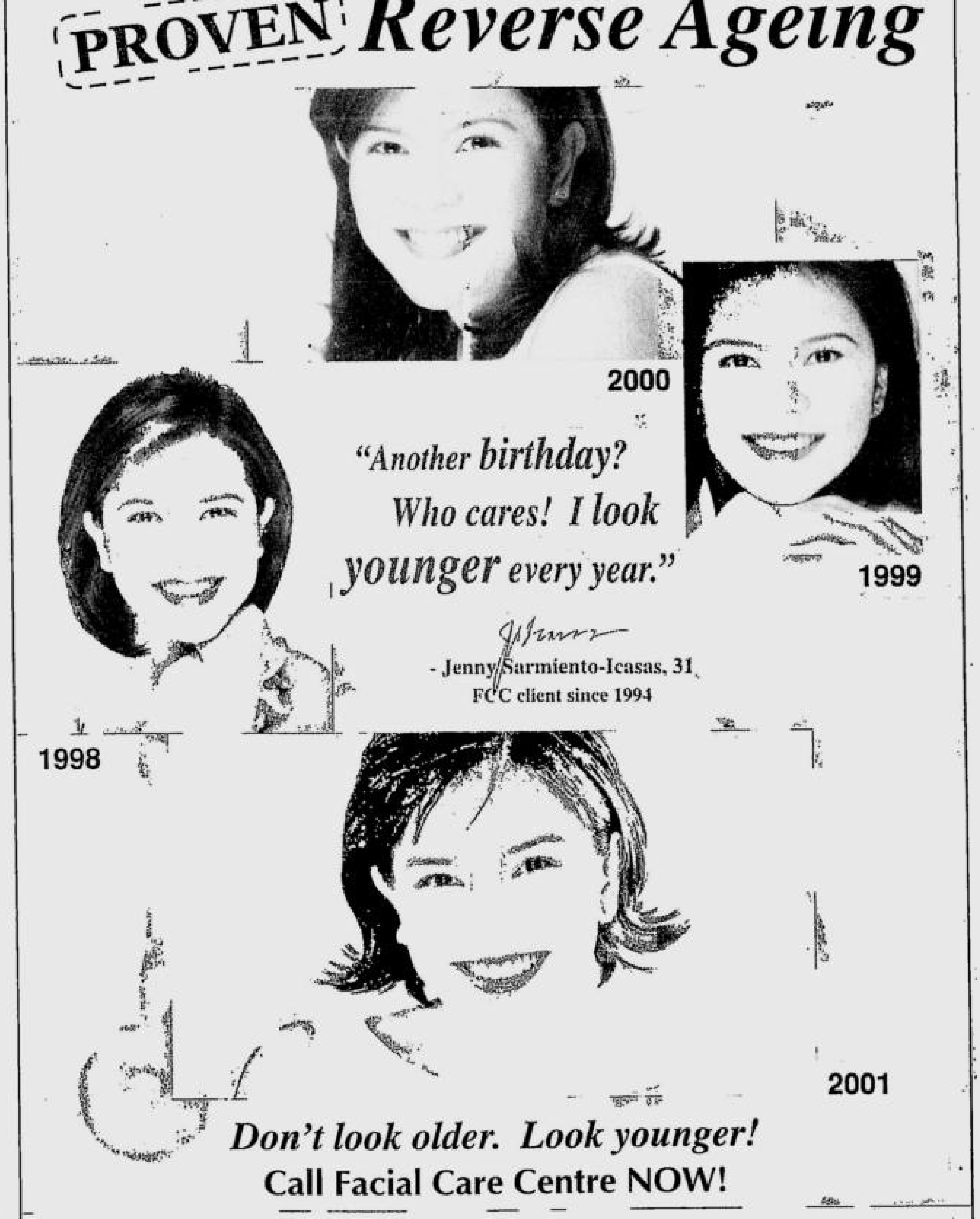

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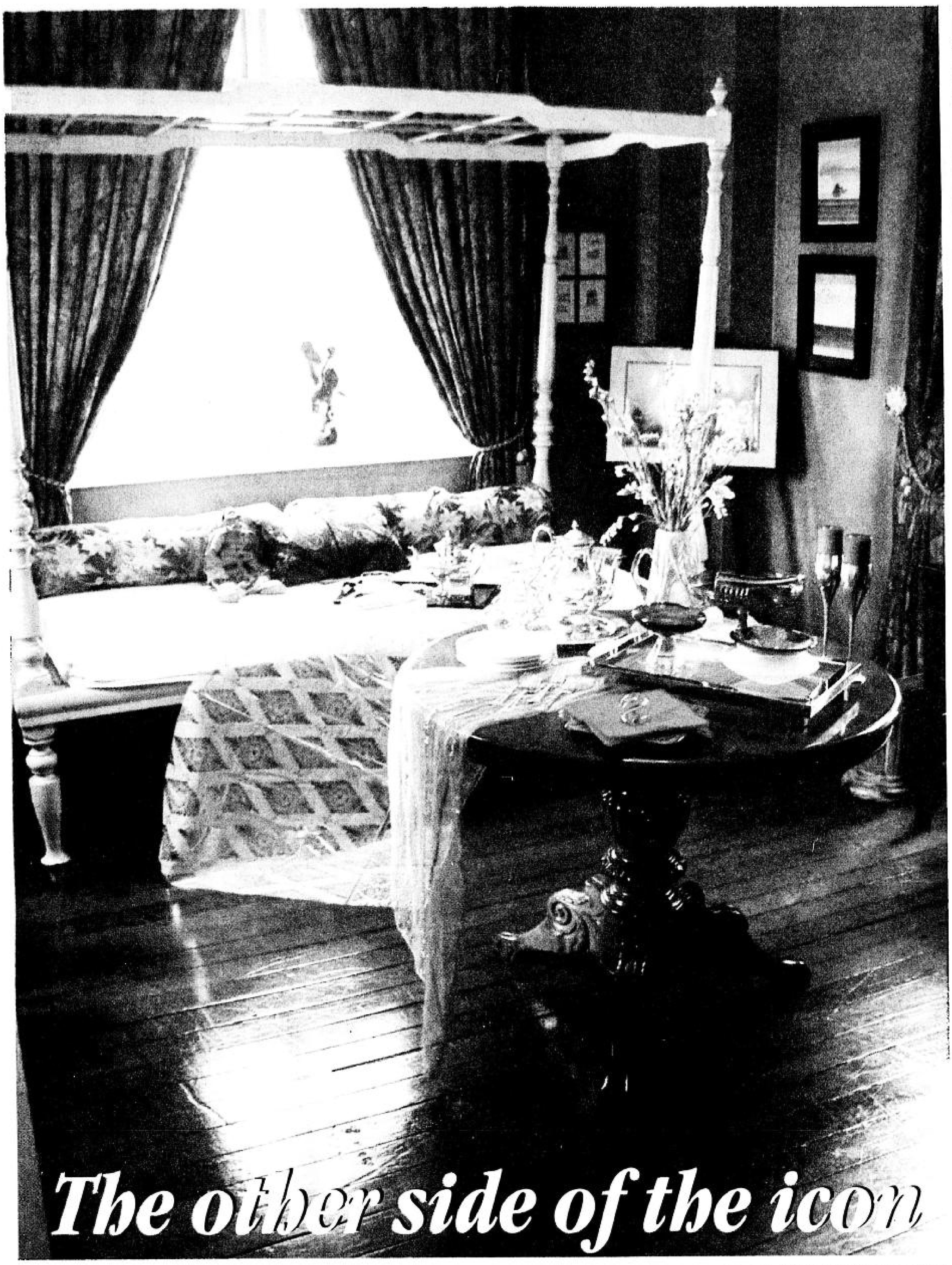
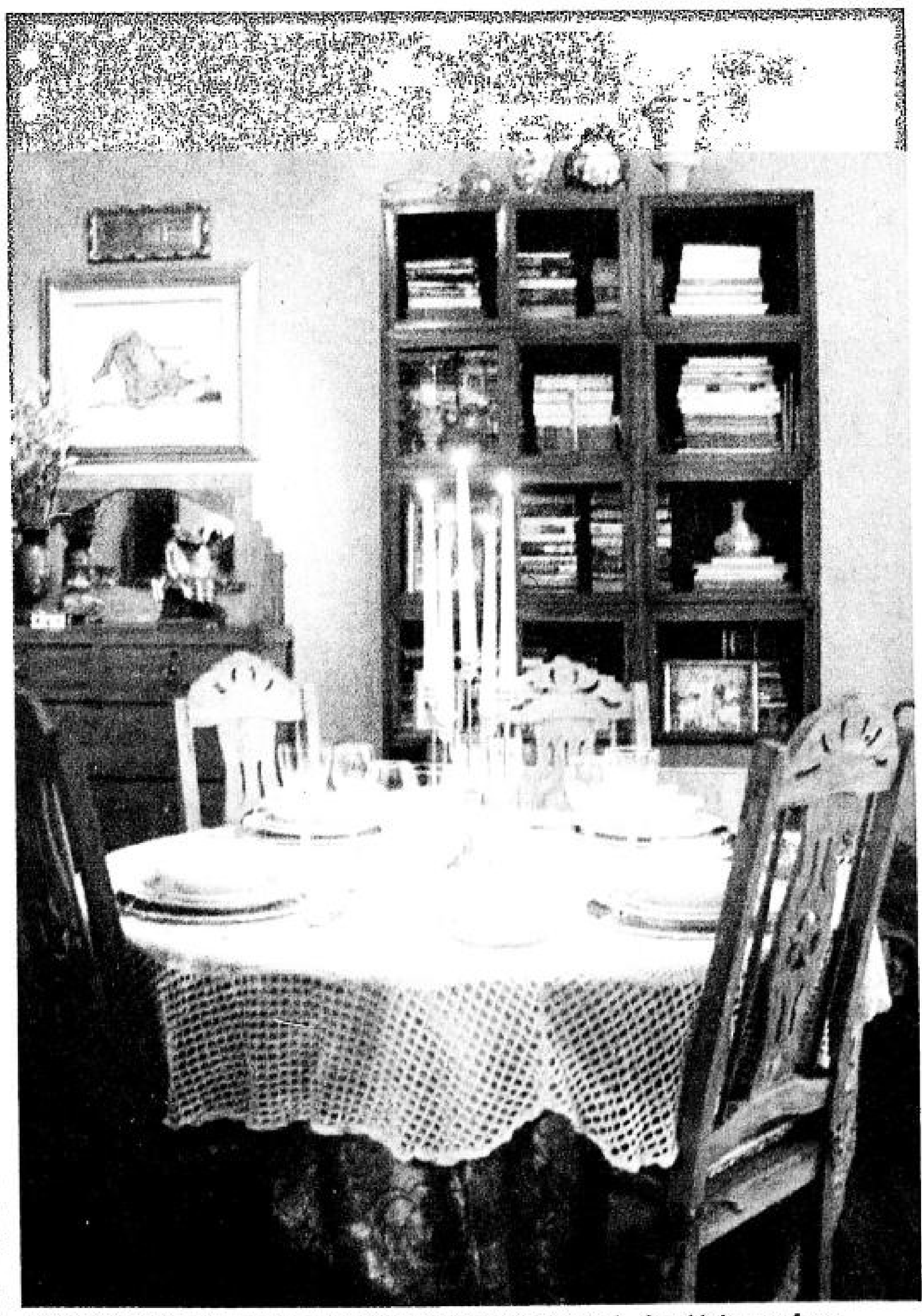


The other side of the icon

FILIPINO bed painted in yellow. The dessert table was inherited from the owner's grandfather.



ANTIQUE dining table and chair with crocheted table cloth. An old drawer from childhood was converted into a storage cabinet.

DETAIL of the dessert table

From page E1

mark of media dramaturgy: to simulate the expiring persona, the makeup artist was most generous in literally painting dark circles around the eyes and slapping tons of shading to simulate sunken cheeks.

My best friend, Manny Castañeda—theater-television-film actor—looked like a crying panda bear doing a Desdemona while "Pasko Na, Sinta Ko" played as background music. It was a bleak Christmas indeed.

But that is the public Manny. For those of us who know the real icon (as we jokingly accuse him of becoming after his thousands of performances), he is not solely the person who will do death-defying acts to win a laugh. The truth is that Manny leads an almost schizophrenic life: he can be as public as he is most private. The other side of Manny is synthesized by the images of his South Syquia apartment and all the little things he does away from audiences, devoid of camera work and makeup.

It was in 1984 that I decided to quit teaching and move out of my parents' house. I asked Manny to join me in apartment-hunting—and we both landed on the doorsteps of the beautiful art deco South Syquia. Manny had no plans of doing a similar overhaul of lifestyle or evacuation from the security and comforts of "living with Mom and Dad." But when we saw all the available units at that time—high ceilings, beautifully grained wooden floorings, irreplaceable patina—Manny also decided to pack his bags and get a unit of his own.

He has been staying in the same apartment for 18 years now. At the start, another friend shared the two-bedroom apartment with Manny. But his so-many-months living with Cynthia Patag is another story all together. Put bluntly, it was the stuff that really good sitcoms are made of—if not very surreal science fiction. But since he started sprucing his nest, that other side of Manny emerged.

Through the years, pieces of antique furniture would find their way in his abode.

Unlike me, Manny is not the type to rush into things and indulge in compulsive behavior. So contrary to his daredevil determination to win a laugh, he handles his private life in the manner manifested by the way he evolved his home. This is one point so completely off sync with the way the public perceives my friend: In real life, he is analytical, cautious and capable of dissecting events with a mind as precise as a scalpel.

Taste

And this is seen so clearly in his taste. Oh, sure, I still josh him for often dressing like a religion teacher or following the mode of clothing of a very hefty Katharine Hepburn. Yet examining the haven he has created for himself shows his neurotic passion for details and texture. His collection of Chinese figurines, his eclectic mixture of classic pieces and bric-a-bracs with Orientalia and all those moiré and chintz curtains look more like "Gosford Park" rather than Mehan Gardens.

Manny belabors his interior-decorating efforts. One day, bored out of my wits, I called him so that we could catch a movie and have dinner out. Oh, he was unavailable. He was painting the guest bathroom. Another time, wanting to put up all those rich curtains to surround the so many windows of his apartment, he went into a spirited adventure right into the heart of Divisoria to get the materials himself. Then, with the aid of a solar-powered calculator, he proudly announced to us the amount of money he saved by refusing to bite the higher prices in fabric stores found in air-conditioned malls.

One thing immediately striking about Castañeda's *lungga* is that he has no living room. Only he can get away with this—for unknown to those who only see him as a two-dimensional creature on screen or in the idiot box, my friend is one damn good cook. This is a talent he obviously inherited from his mother—nice sweet Tita Nena (and I often wonder why our mothers even have the same nickname) whose *lengua estofada* is one very good reason to anticipate our annual New Year's Eve dinners. Thus, Manny's apartment is actually one big dining room where he can display all his china and crystal glasses as well as awe his friends with the magic he creates in his small kitchen.

And he would take his cooking most seriously. It is a known fact among his friends that he does his own marketing, can philosophize on the quality of cherry tomatoes and can whiff up a dish with leftovers or whatever he unravels in his pantry. Although we have yet to taste what he claims is his original pasta dish, Manny once woke up in the wee hours of the morning going crazy with hunger. So he went to his kitchen and threw everything he could gather to sauté, cooked some pasta and then added a very special ingredient to turn everything into a flambé. Well, we have yet to know the real flavors of this dish certified unique with the use of... Rango Brandy.

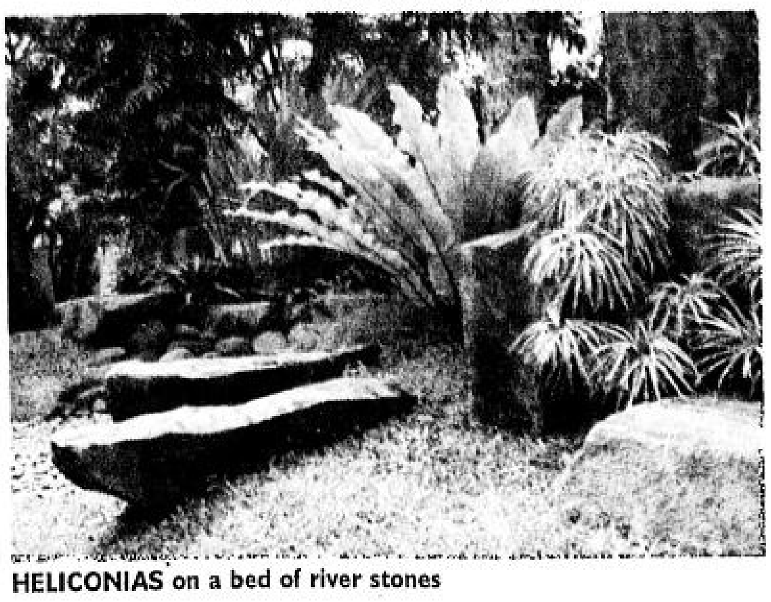
Passion

His passion for the kitchen can also be expressed in the things he hunts for whenever we travel. He is the only person I know who goes to Hong Kong and will never find a moment of peace until he finds the right chafing dish. He is the only creature consuming oxygen on our planet who breaks into tears while examining a Spring copper frying pan or elaborating on a German brand of cookware made of stainless steel as if it were a treatise on Schopenhauer.

Once upon a time, Manny went heavy into Versace. Whereas others would find premium value in the workmanship of the haute couture and diffusion lines of the late Gianni, Manny became a "fashion plate victim." By this I mean he was saving up and buying all the available models of the Versace dinner plates from Hong Kong. He proudly set them up—together with a Cartier plate given to him by Sharon Cuneta—on a buffet cabinet only to be completely demolished by the last big earthquake to hit Manila. I remember that right after the earth moved under our feet, I was in a restaurant on Nakpil and called up Manny to check on his condition. He was completely traumatized as he witnessed his plate collection flying out of the cabinet, transforming themselves into very expensive slivers waiting to be turned into a mosaic something.

Each time I drop by Manny's apartment and look at the world he has created for himself, I realize all the more that only a chosen few know him for what and who he really is. Sure, you don't take someone doing all those gay roles all too seriously, thinking that the flamboyance is only an indication of some vapid character trying to gain attention by volume of voice rather than depth of mind or width of interests. Prejudging was never so wrong as when applied to our self-proclaimed icon. Beneath the public guffaws lies a very private person who only allows a few to catch a glimpse of what he reserves for himself. This happens to be his enclave out there on M.H. Del Pilar.

Through life you edit out a lot of things. Some necessities turn into excesses. Some fixtures get worn out and need to be replaced if not completely removed. Others you just outgrow. But we have known each other for too many years. We have mellowed, designed our little corners of existence and have grown up together. For me, most especially, Manny has not only become inevitable but indispensable... like only a few very rare things in life that we choose not only to collect but simply treasure.



HELICONIAS on a bed of river stones

PHOENIX roebellini and carabao grass planter on what used to be a swimming pool.

LANDSCAPE artist Benny Velasco softens the line of hard rocks with bird's nest fern, bromeliads, crotons and ginger plants.

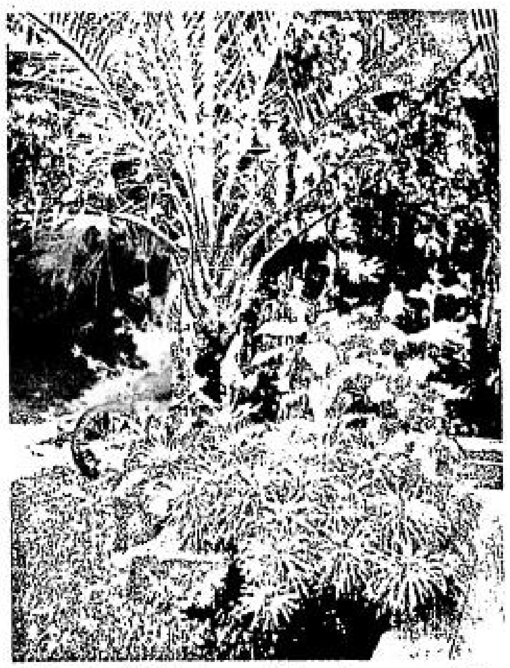
In doctor's garden, rocks make the difference

By Tita V. Giron
Photos by Chito Vecina
VISUAL CONCEPT BY ALBERT AVELLANA

TROPICAL gardens of different variations are common to most of the houses off McKinley road in Makati City. But one house does stand out because of the unique landscape. Big structured rocks of varying heights, instead of common garden accessories like primitive-looking jars and weathered wood, are the distinguishing features there.

Where one usually finds a special flowering shrub dominating a corner of the lawn, there's a grouping of geometrically shaped rocks instead. At the front garden, the main attraction is a simulated waterfall scene where rocks and stones are deftly used. It has river pebbles representing the cascading fall between boulders.

It is obvious that the symbolic waterfall in the front garden was designed to complement the stylized Japanese architecture of the main house. Very effective in creating an overall effect of an oriental garden are the reedy bamboo palms. The old favorite San Francisco shrubs and standard ornamentals fill gaps between taller trees.



CHAMPAGNE palm with *bandera española* and crotons

More of the same is found at the back of the house where the main garden is. What used to be the swimming pool area has since then been filled up with soil after the house renovation. It is currently covered by a carpet of carabao grass that spreads out to the thick planting of palms and foliage plants along the property fence.

Continuing sculptured rocks are strategically placed around the garden to break the abundance of all-green foliage plants, palms and grass. For color, there are *ti* plants, Doña Luz mussaenda hybrid, yellow bell vine, *bandera española* and bougainvilleas. For scent, there are ylang-ylang trees around the house.

Palms are obviously planted along the periphery to block off the view of neighboring houses. Offsetting the bare spots are pink flowering *adelfa* and other low-maintenance hedges.

The sparse grouping of Dendrobiums and vandas mounted on a few *madre de cacao* trunks, however, stands out as a misplaced item at the foreground. The grouping, we learned later, was obviously placed to humor the owner of the garden who used to be an avid collector of orchids. And like it or not, he would obviously find a choice spot for his surviving orchids.

Garden to start the day with

Veteran ophthalmologist Dr. Tim Jimenez of Makati Medical City is the proud owner of the garden. Even if he doesn't actually pot plants and dig the soil, as we found out during a visit with him at his residence, he is truly a gardener at heart. According to him, he starts the day in the garden and knows the names of each plant.

While most of his neighbors are still sleeping, he is already roaming around the garden or watering the plants. Then, he takes his coffee at the lanai and reads the newspapers until the morning sun takes over the garden. In between pauses, he says he enjoys the sight of his plants and the birds, bees and butterflies that visit.

"There used to be bats when we had the big old *balete* tree. But they did not come back after the tree was chopped down, and I am happy." The bats, he explained, dirtied the lanai with things they ate and excreted.

The lanai leads to the spacious garden at the back of the house. Directly in front is the lawn, to the left the rock garden, and to the right is bed of Spathyiphyllum lilies. From the coffee-table area, Dr. Jimenez has a panoramic view of his favorite plants at sunrise. "It's my favorite part of the day," he admits.

"I used to have a lot of orchids in the garden. Roses, too. And I would water each of my plants every day," the veteran eye doctor reminisced. The roses, and most of the orchids, perished eventually after the house renovation.

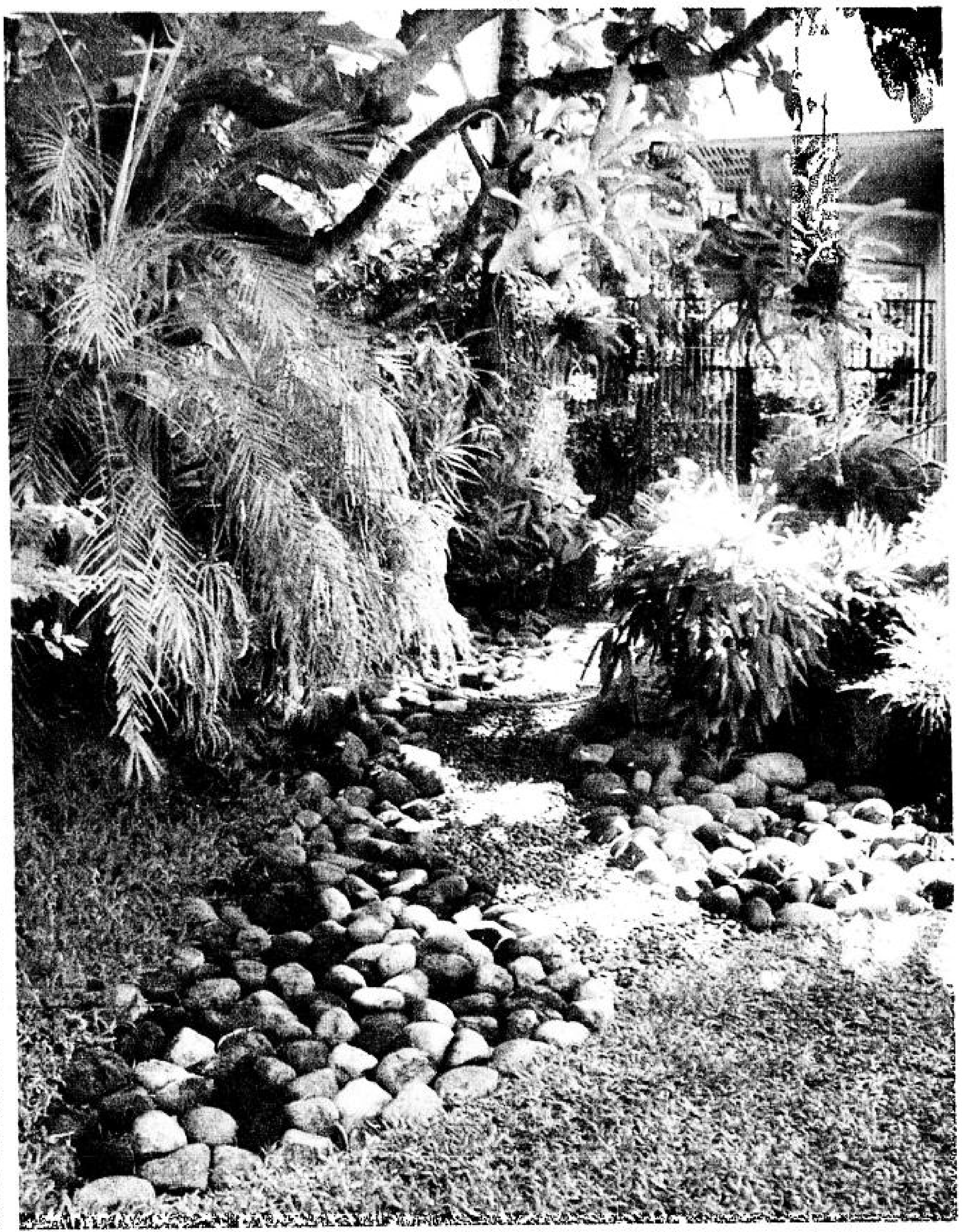
"The garden landscape had to be redesigned to complement the modern layout of the house. It needed a formal landscaping that was practical and easy to maintain." For the task, Dr. Jimenez said he chose architect Benny Velasco. "He designed and implemented the garden landscape."

"I am pleased with his work and my only complaint is that it is hard to find him," the eye doctor griped. For a number of reasons, he needs a visit from Velasco. His *livistonia* and *phoenix* palms are not doing very well. The *santan* hedge along the pedestrian wall is in doldrums. He added, "There are shaded areas that need special shade plants, too."

Velasco is known in the landscaping business for his well-structured garden designs. He is also known for using rocks, stones, and pebbles as garden accessories and main accents. Finding him at his office in Antipolo is, however, a trial in patience and perseverance. Be that as it may, Velasco's work is appreciated and highly praised by Dr. Jimenez.

For ideas and information on garden rocks, stones and pebbles, visit the landscaping nurseries and plant shops at Manila Seedling Bank. Rocks and stones are also available at Cypress Gardens on Edsa-Cubao, or call 911-9602 or 912-6196.

E-mail author at mariettagiron@hotmail.com



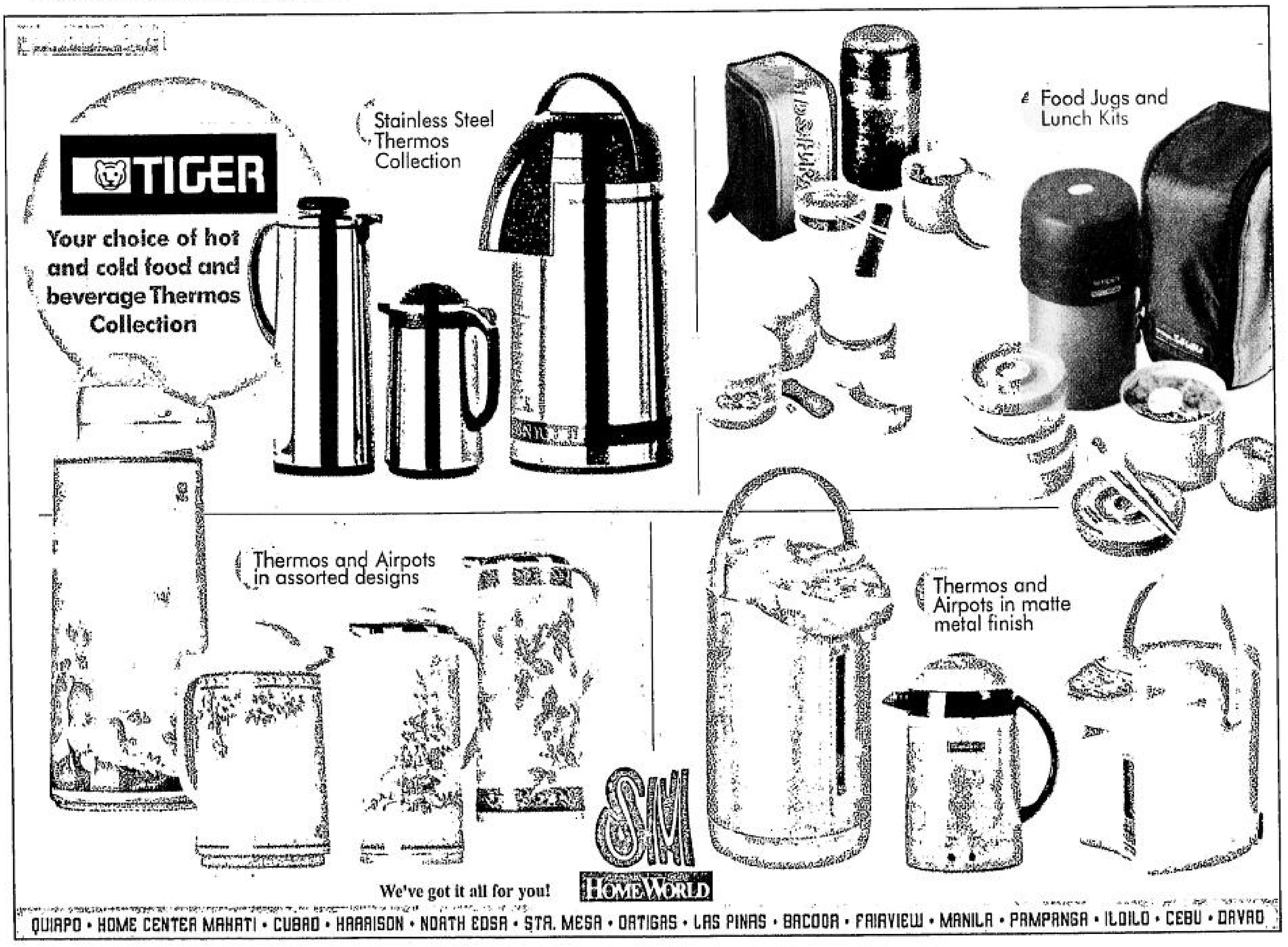
RIVER stones line the winding path under staghorn ferns and orchids.

A future fully furnished

HABITAT is a showcase of over 26 years of all-time favorite classics and the latest high-end modern pieces. The clientele now ranges from the extreme traditionalist to the ultra-modernist. It is not surprising to find the magnificent Ming bed royally dressed next to the ever-popular 20-year-old furniture line made from solid narra wood with brass handles in the East gallery, or the Japanese-inspired Nagoya living set proudly displayed together with the Aero lines, and the latest designs inside the ethnic modern pyramid of the main gallery.

Chris Lacson, a graduate of the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, California, has honored his father's wish to continue what the latter had started by renovating the old show room and offices, and extending the legacy by creating another division called Atalyer that serves as a venue for his own artistic expressions as can be shown by the powerful presence of limited pieces, such as the Cartel wing chair. From Chris, through Atalyer, comes the ultra-modern furniture of the future that appeals largely to young professionals and clients of highly artistic inclination.

Habitat is holding it's "Biggest Sale of the Year." Habitat, The Lifestyle Center is located at the corner of Pines and Sheridan Streets, Mandaluyong City. Call 636-5141/4115.



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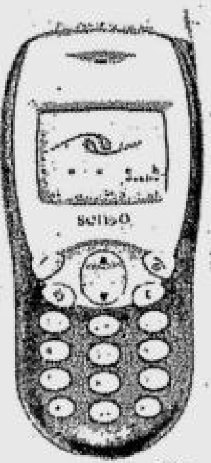

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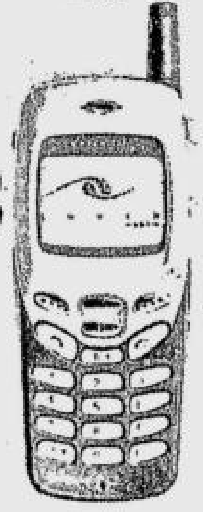

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0239, Series of 2002.

Trend Spotting

For feedback, text us at (0918)917-5026 or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

LIFESTYLE

PANORAMIC glass windows let the outdoors in.

It's a 'wine lifestyle'

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

A COOPED-UP Metro Manilan dying to break free on a regular weekend has a choice: head either north or south. Specifically, Tagaytay, Calatagan, Nasugbu or Tali in the south; Clark, Subic or, if you want to goof off on to Monday, Baguio, in the north. That has been the stereotypical weekend for the upper- and middle-crust Filipino the past decade.

Since I live in the south, it's a major production for me to go north. When I do, it's usually Clark, for a moderate swim, tennis-to-death and hoarding cheap bath tissues (at Puregold)—all in a day and a half. That's what's good about Clark or Tagaytay; you can squeeze it into a pocket-size weekend.

A few weeks ago, however, we drove to Clark for something I never associated with this destination before—to wine and fine-dine, on a weekday when I should have been kicking butts in the office.

A co-Theresian, **Mayen Lozano Saporsantos**, talked me into visiting the Yats International Wine Club at the Mimosa Estates for lunch with Yats' chief operating officer **Denny Wang**. I brought along our magazine food writer **Bambi Sy Gobio**, who worked as chef at Four Seasons in New York, and photographer **Gil Nartea**. I figured while I ate, Bambi could write, because food—the way **Doreen Fernandez** elevated it to culture and art—was hardly my forte (I know, today's writers don't have to be knowledgeable to be able to write), and wine, to me, is an indulgence. In covering and editing lifestyle, I've considered food and (red) wine as indulgences, but fashion as a passion; the former I just help myself to, the latter I study (and considerably spend on).

So stepping into the one-story glass/concrete structure, I felt like you would—as a very ordinary (lunch-starved) mortal entering the connoisseur's lair. I remember this as a country frame house of a German resto more than a year ago. Today it has kept that quaintness while adding on a cosmopolitan air—thanks to the simple but smart blend of glass, metal and wood. The Wine Club structure is quaint minimalism made postcard-pretty in its setting of lush trees.

The wooden walkway leading to it gives it a Zen quality—a serenity echoed in the garden accented with outdoor chairs. Inside, the dark blue-upholstered furniture and columns, the decks of wine bottles encased in a glass center column, the off-white lounge chairs leave no doubt that this is a place for fine dining, but in a nature setting. Where there used to be walls now stand panoramic glass windows that let the outdoors in.

IT'S A WINE/ p.F4

You see it evolving everywhere, even in Metro Manila

When semiprecious is ultra-precious

(Story on page F3)

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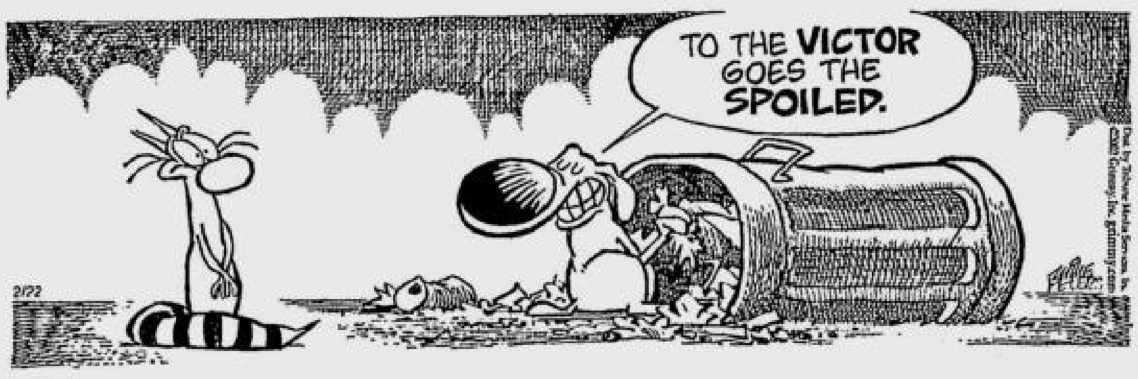
ALL CLIENTS ARE SCHEDULED BY APPOINTMENT*

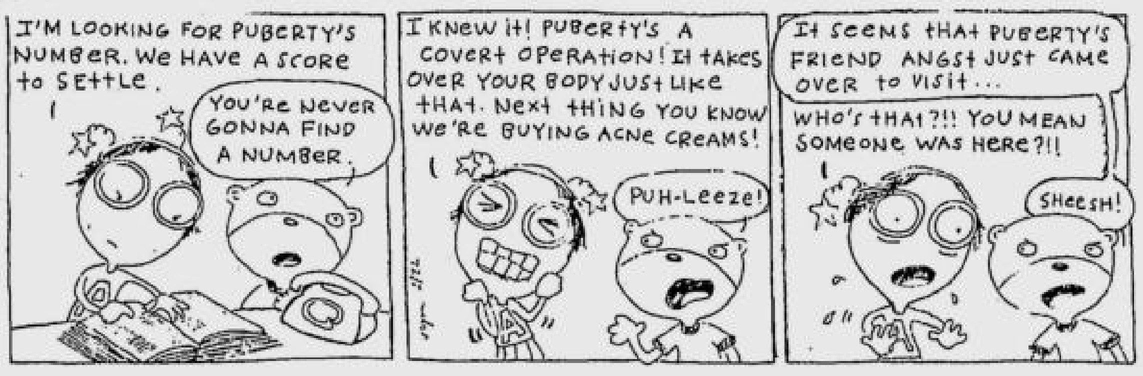
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


TO THE VICTOR GOES THE SPOILED.
2/22

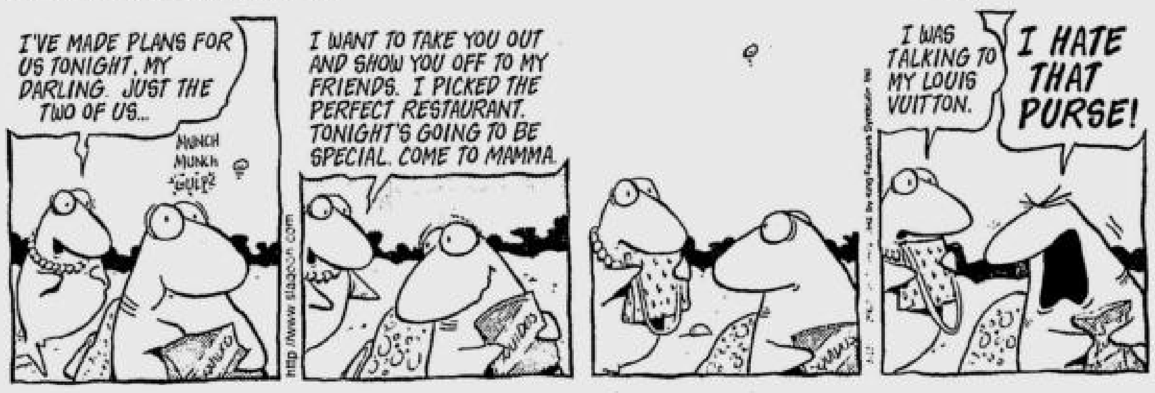
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


I'M LOOKING FOR PUBERTY'S NUMBER. WE HAVE A SCORE TO SETTLE.
YOU'RE NEVER GONNA FIND A NUMBER.
I KNEW IT! PUBERTY'S A COVERT OPERATION! IT TAKES OVER YOUR BODY JUST LIKE THAT. NEXT THING YOU KNOW WE'RE BUYING ACNE CREAMS!
PUH-LEEZE!
IT SEEMS THAT PUBERTY'S FRIEND ANGST JUST CAME OVER TO VISIT...
WHO'S THAT?!! YOU MEAN SOMEONE WAS HERE?!!
SHEESH!

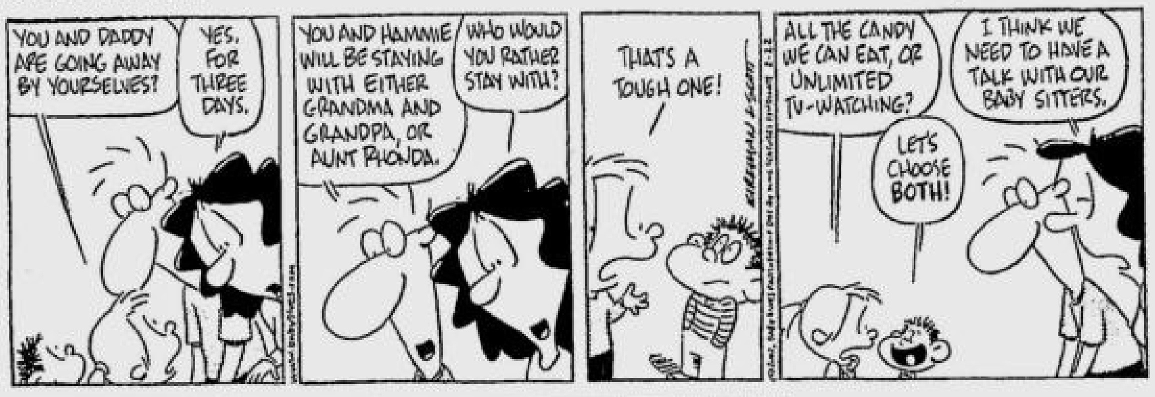
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


I'VE MADE PLANS FOR US TONIGHT, MY DARLING. JUST THE TWO OF US...
MUNCH MUNCH GULP
I WANT TO TAKE YOU OUT AND SHOW YOU OFF TO MY FRIENDS. I PICKED THE PERFECT RESTAURANT. TONIGHT'S GOING TO BE SPECIAL. COME TO MAMMA.
http://www.slagoon.com
I WAS TALKING TO MY LOUIS VUITTON.
I HATE THAT PURSE!

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


YOU AND DADDY ARE GOING AWAY BY YOURSELVES?
YES. FOR THREE DAYS.
YOU AND HAMMIE WILL BE STAYING WITH EITHER GRANDMA AND GRANDPA, OR AUNT RHONDA.
WHO WOULD YOU RATHER STAY WITH?
THAT'S A TOUGH ONE!
ALL THE CANDY WE CAN EAT, OR UNLIMITED TV-WATCHING?
LET'S CHOOSE BOTH!
I THINK WE NEED TO HAVE A TALK WITH OUR BABY SITTERS.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Drew Barrymore, Edward Kennedy, Michael Chang, Julius Erving

Happy Birthday: If you aren't happy with the situation, consider your options and don't be afraid to make a move. Your willpower, coupled with your intuition, should help you accomplish all you set out to do. Stress and nervous tension must be dealt with and eliminated. Your numbers are 5, 17, 22, 35, 41, 47

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You can organize an outing with friends today that will put you in the limelight. Plan a pleasure trip today and it will lift your spirits.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You can make changes if you stand up for your rights. Join forces and press employers to improve your working conditions or talk to friends and work as a team to achieve self-improvement projects.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You will be emotionally challenged today. You know in your heart that you need a change, but you just aren't sure where to start.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You may want to hibernate today. Spend time making yourself happy. Do the things that you enjoy the most. It's time to lower your stress and pamper yourself.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You can make a difference if you get involved in a fund-raising group or join an organization that has an intellectual slant.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You will face frustration and obstacles if you try to interest someone in helping you get ahead. Your ability to work with detail will help you but don't overdo it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You are intelligent, gifted and certainly intuitive. Don't stand in the way of your own advancement. You have the goods but you must believe in yourself as well.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Saving is the key to getting ahead today. You need to mellow out and take better care of yourself. A regimented routine and proper diet will fix any stress that you have been experiencing.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You will be on an emotional rollercoaster ride today. Try to stay grounded and don't let anyone upset you. Be true to yourself and honest about the way you feel.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You can make changes that will turn your life around today. Take a look at all your options and don't be afraid to take a chance. Accept the changes going on around you.

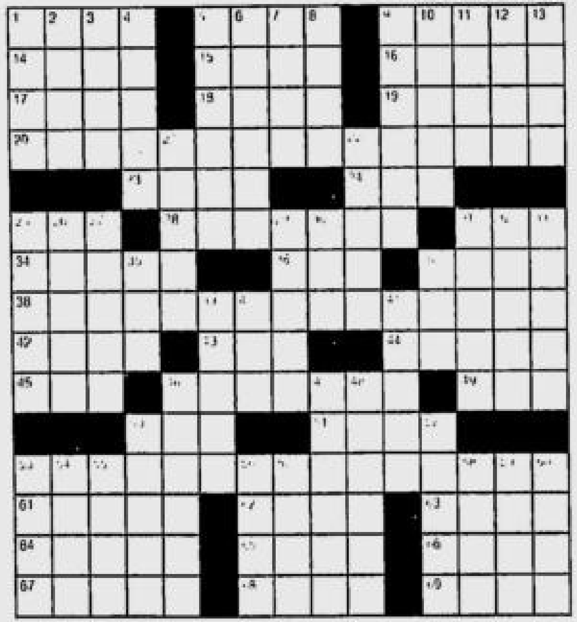
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't hold yourself back. You have the opportunity to do something creative so take the plunge and let everyone see how gifted you are. Expand your knowledge through books, seminars or talking to intellectual people.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You may want to remain quiet today. Problems will surface if you are too forthcoming with your opinions. A misunderstanding may cause problems with someone you considered to be close.

Birthday Baby: You can turn on the tears at the drop of a pin. You are highly intuitive and can pick up on other people's feelings easily. You are truly an individual with vivid imagination and creative ability.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com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By Gregory E. Paul
Scottdale, PA

1/7/02

ACROSS
1 Take third
5 Early bird's meal
9 Try hard to persuade
14 Jab
15 Region
16 Hawk's home
17 Mystique
18 Pinocchio or Ananias
19 Once doubled
20 Tourist drafts
23 Divisible by two
24 Hood's healer
25 Pioneered
28 Occasionally
31 Syn.'s opposite
34 Greek epic
36 Actress Sandra
37 Soothing lotion
38 Missing flier
42 Yearning
43 Nature watchdog grp.
44 Scandinavian
45 __ volente
46 Take to task
49 Hanoi holiday
50 __ favor, senor
51 "A Death in the Family" writer
53 Lawrenceville, New Jersey school
61 Watery expanse
62 Greek god of war
63 London district
64 Puerto Rican seaport
65 Section
66 Wide-mouth pitcher
67 Penetrate
68 Miller and Jillian
69 Submerged

DOWN
1 Falling-out
2 Day division
3 Gumbo need
4 Bob's partner?
5 Pickpocket's pick
6 Position properly
7 Car-mirror's view
8 Roman god of war
9 Feeling of pity
10 End widowhood
11 Idle or Clapton
12 Under the weather
13 Dates
21 Sidestep
22 Proceed stealthily
25 Sterol or triglyceride
26 Make merry
27 '70s hot spot
29 Notions
30 Mal de __ (seasickness)
31 Red-light situation
32 Hangman's knot
33 Religious belief
35 Light gray
37 Gone by
39 Former Indian leader
40 College student's letters
41 City or circle preceder
46 Tight spot
47 Saloon
48 Excretes
50 Serenity
52 Zigzag turns
53 Heavy cord
54 Desktop image
55 Fender flaw
56 California wine county
57 Persia, now
58 Hawkeye State
59 In that case
60 New __ City

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

D	I	S	S	I	M	I	L	A	R	■	M	A	I	D
I	N	C	I	N	E	R	A	T	E	■	A	N	N	A
S	T	A	R	K	N	A	K	E	D	■	R	A	S	P
K	E	P	I	S	■	■	E	A	R	■	S	L	O	P
S	L	E	U	T	H	S	■	M	A	N	H	O	L	E
■	■	■	S	E	A	L	S	■	W	A	G	G	E	R
L	E	O	■	R	I	O	T	S	■	P	A	I	N	E
A	R	E	A	■	L	O	A	T	H	■	S	E	C	S
R	I	A	T	A	■	P	L	E	A	S	■	S	E	T
K	E	T	T	L	E	■	L	I	L	A	C	■	■	■
S	C	H	E	L	L	S	■	N	O	N	U	S	E	R
P	A	L	S	■	M	O	P	■	■	C	R	A	V	E
U	N	I	T	■	O	R	I	E	N	T	A	T	E	S
R	A	K	E	■	R	E	S	T	A	U	R	A	N	T
S	L	E	D	■	E	N	A	C	T	M	E	N	T	S

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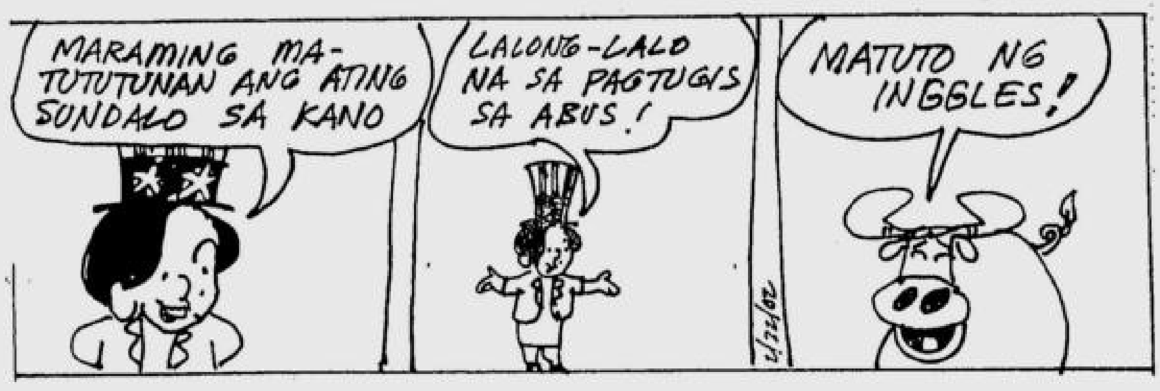
1/7/02

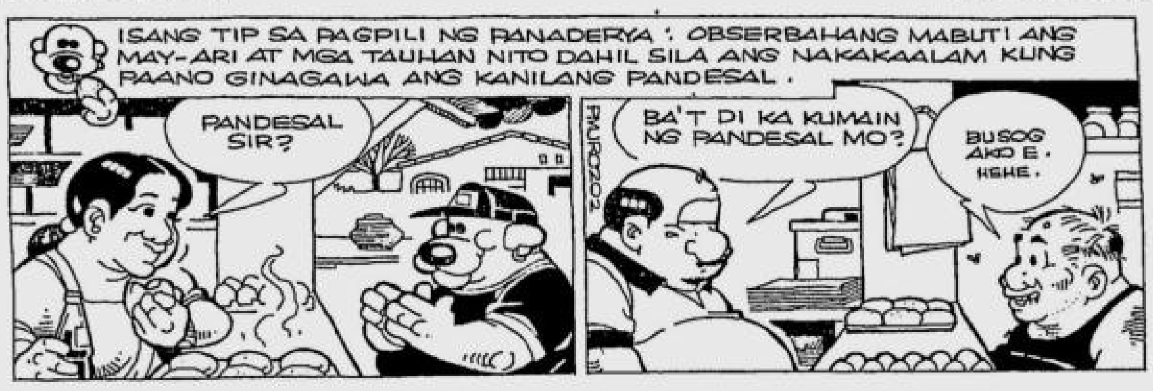
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


MARAMING MATUTUTUNAN ANG ATING SUNDALO SA KANO
LALONG-LALO NA SA PAGTUGIS SA ABUS!
MATUTO NG INGGLES!

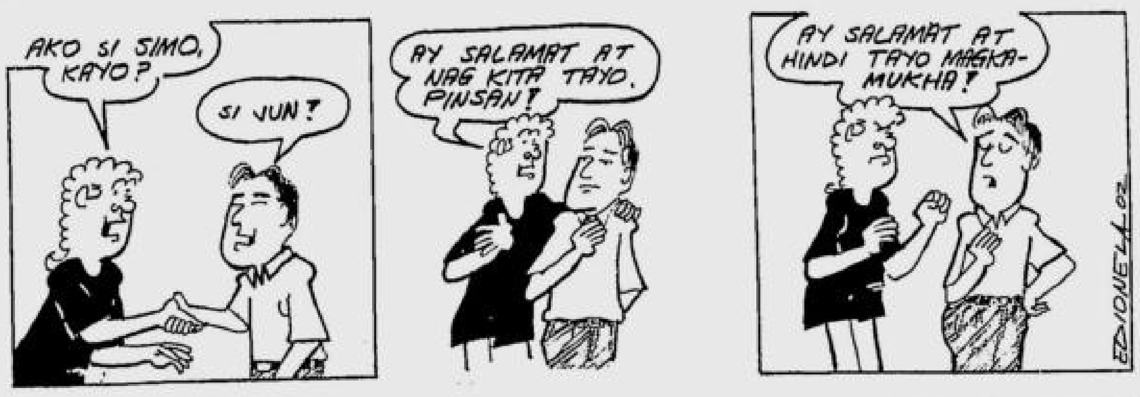
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


ISANG TIP SA PAGPILI NG PANADERYA : OBSERBAHANG MABUTI ANG MAY-ARI AT MGA TAUHAN NITO DAHIL SILA ANG NAKAKAALAM KUNG PAANO GINAGAWA ANG KANILANG PANDESAL.
PANDESAL SIR?
BA'T DI KA KUMAIN NG PANDESAL MO?
BUSOG AKO E. HEHE.
PMJR0202

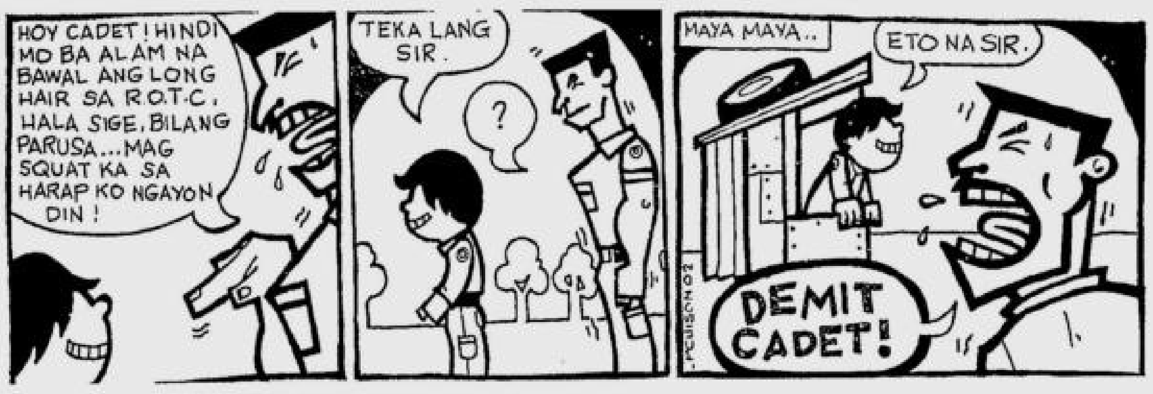
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


AKO SI SIMO, KAYO?
SI JUN?
AY SALAMAT AT NAG KITA TAYO, PINSAN!
AY SALAMAT AT HINDI TAYO MAGKAMUKHA!
EDIONELA 02

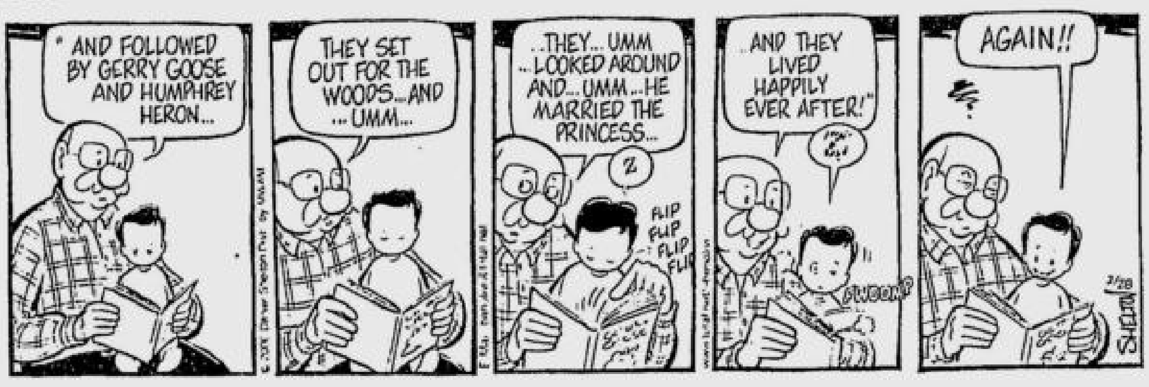
GARAPATA BLOOD

BY JOHN PAUL CUISON


HOY CADET! HINDI MO BA ALAM NA BAWAL ANG LONG HAIR SA R.O.T.C. HALA SIGE, BILANG PARUSA...MAG SQUAT KA SA HARAP KO NGAYON DIN!
TEKA LANG SIR.
?
MAYA MAYA..
ETO NA SIR.
DEMIT CADET!
JPCUISON 02

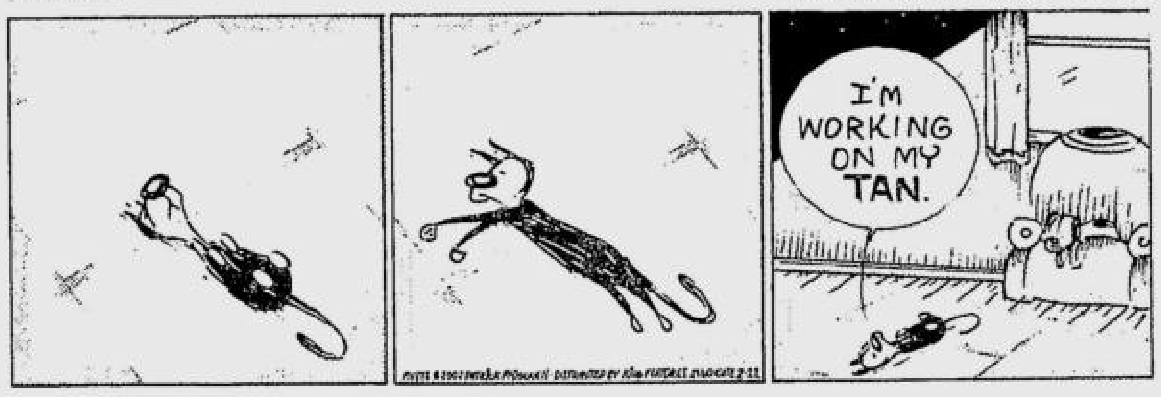
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


"AND FOLLOWED BY GERRY GOOSE AND HUMPHREY HERON...
THEY SET OUT FOR THE WOODS...AND ...UMM...
..THEY... UMM ..LOOKED AROUND AND...UMM...HE MARRIED THE PRINCESS...
Z
FLIP FLIP FLIP FLIP
..AND THEY LIVED HAPPILY EVER AFTER!"
SWOOP
AGAIN!!
2/28
SHELTON

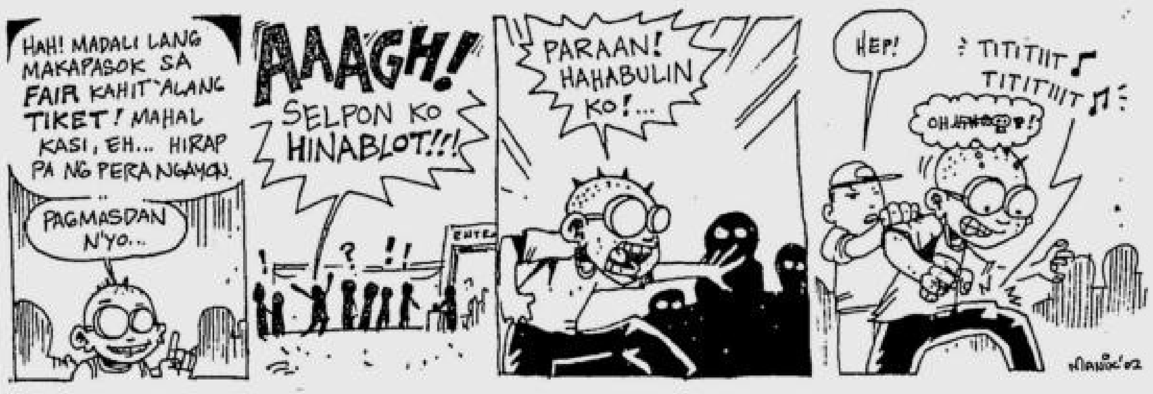
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


I'M WORKING ON MY TAN.

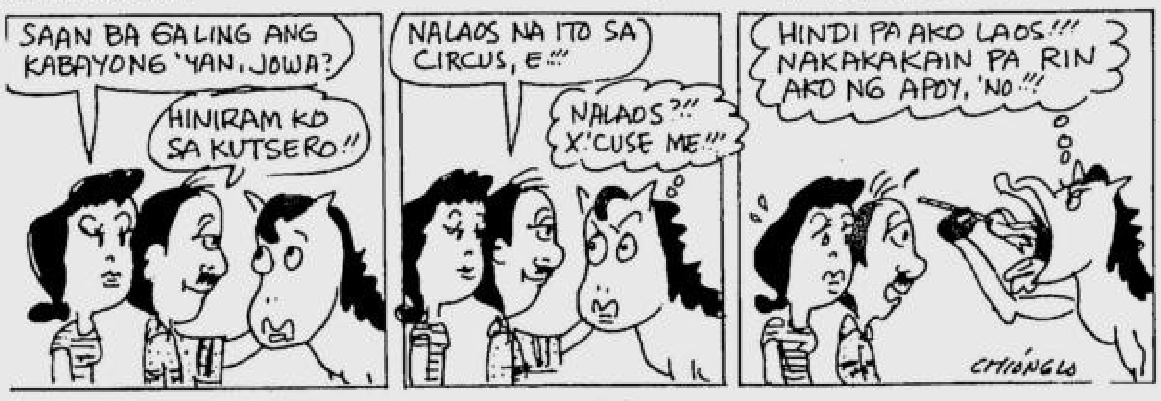
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


HAH! MADALI LANG MAKAPASOK SA FAIR KAHIT ALANG TIKET! MAHAL KASI, EH... HIRAP PA NG PERA NGAYON.
PAGMASDAN N'YO..
AAAGH!
SELPON KO HINABLOT!!!
ENTR
PARAAN! HAHABULIN KO!...
HEP!
TITITIIIT TITITIIIT
MANIX'02

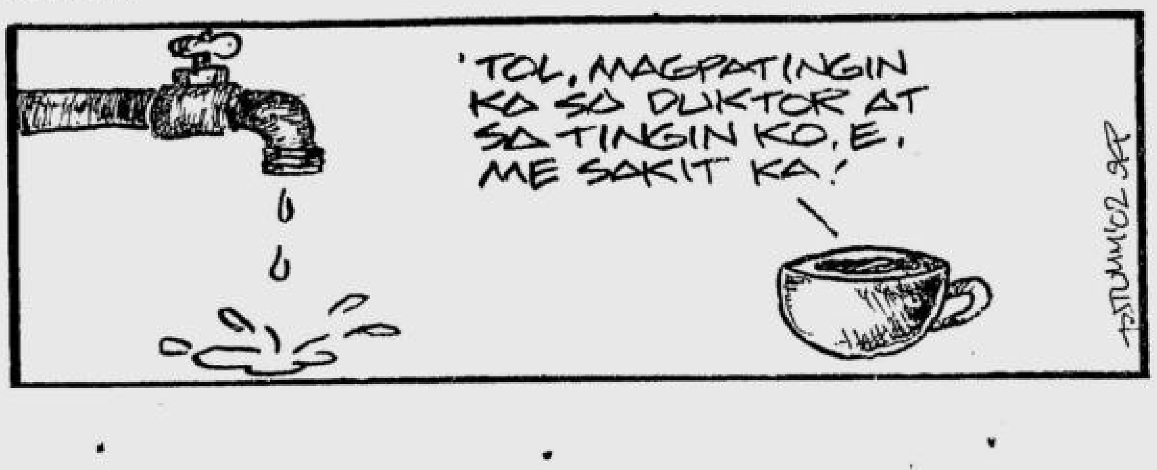
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

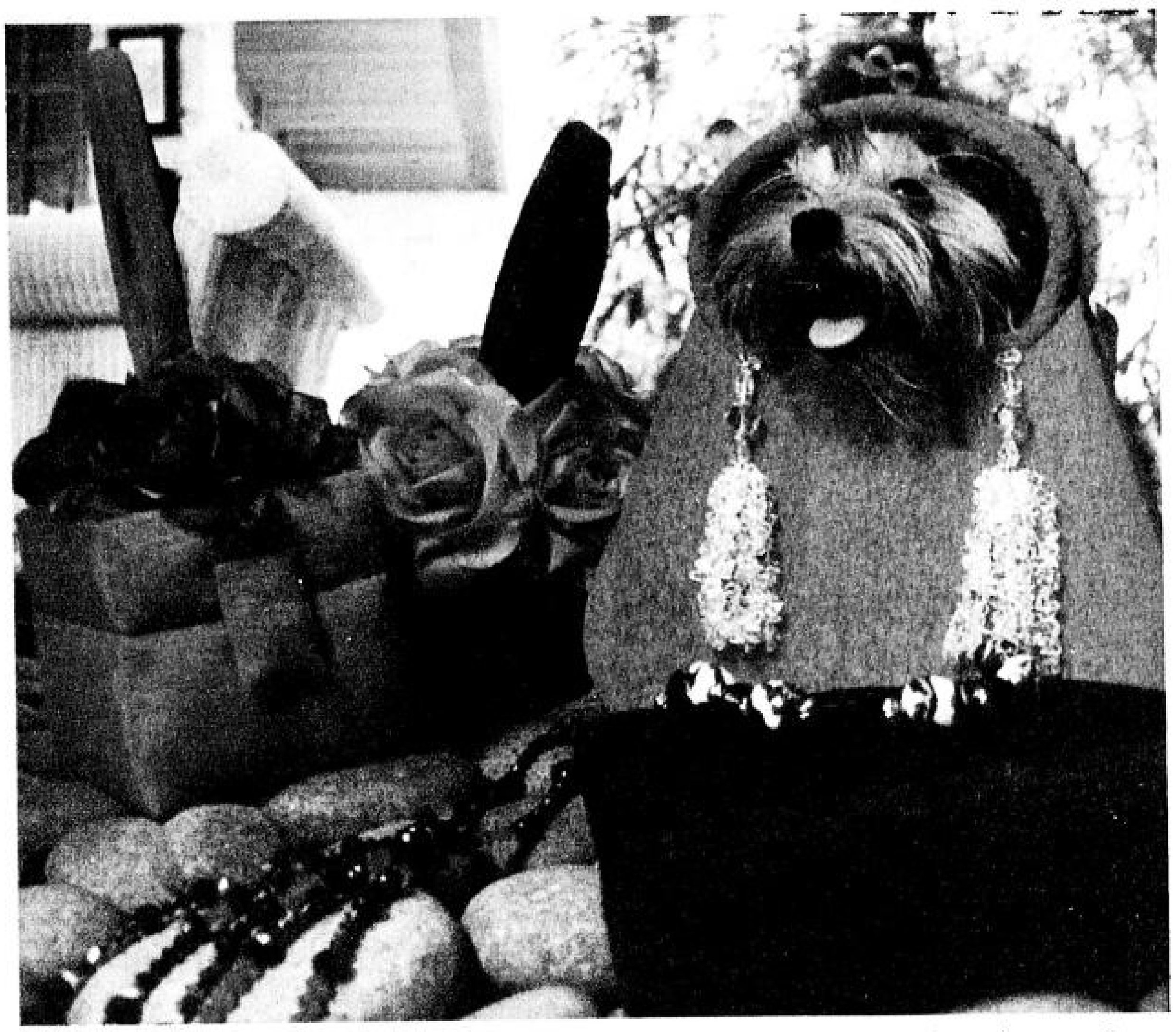

SAAN BA GALING ANG KABAYONG 'YAN, JOWA?
HINIRAM KO SA KUTSERO!!
NALAOS NA ITO SA CIRCUS, E!!!
NALAOS?!! X'CUSE ME!!!
HINDI PA AKO LAOS!!! NAKAKAKAIN PA RIN AKO NG APOY, 'NO!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

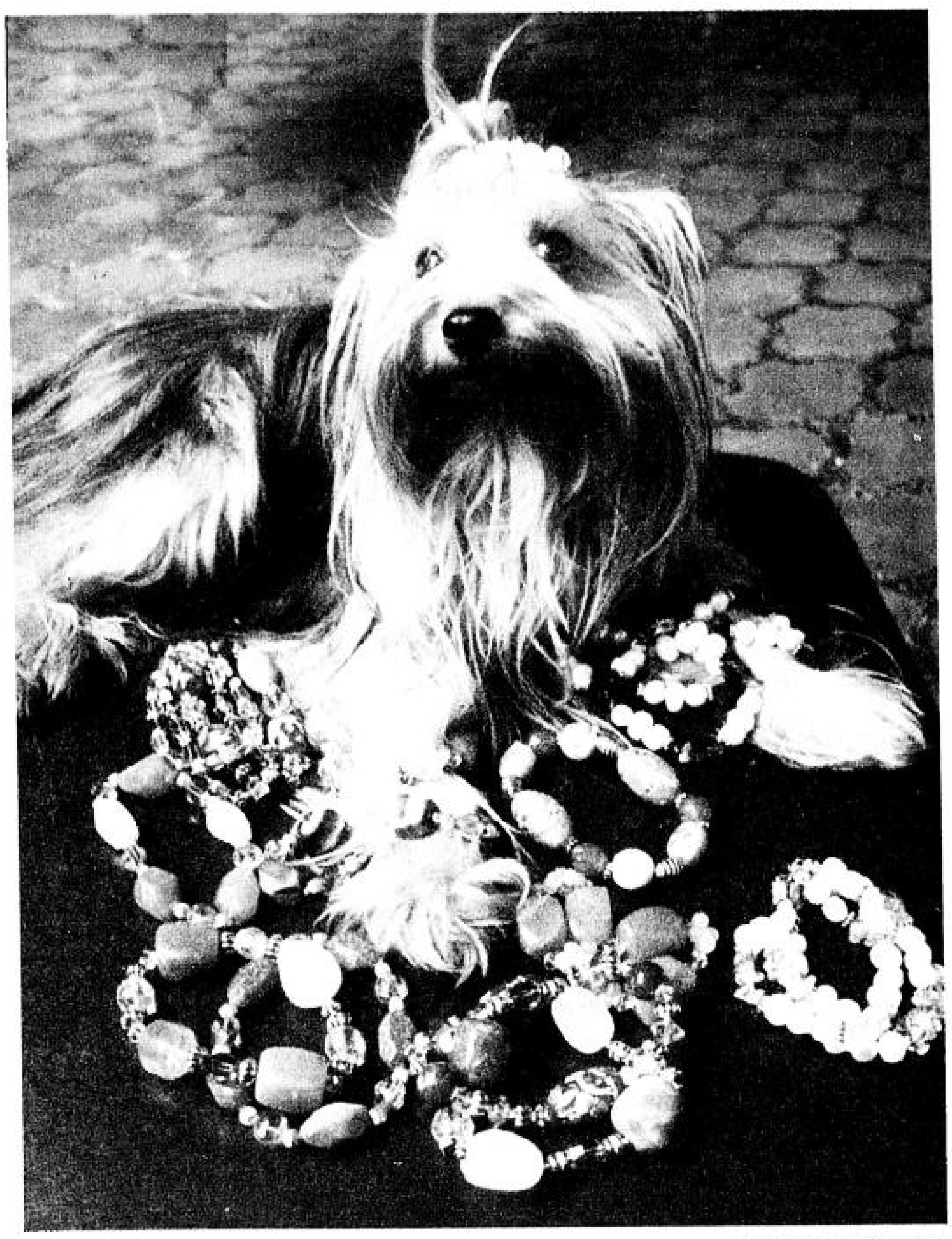
BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


'TOL, MAGPATINGIN KA SA DUKTOR AT SA TINGIN KO, E, ME SAKIT KA!
TATUM'02 PAP

Lilibeth Fernandez-Campos' exquisite jewelry have become a grand equalizer, straddling formal and casual while accommodating any age that understands style



RED box bag with deep red roses, black box bag with red roses, red bag with crystal tassels, square bag with handle of zebra jasper and onyx, tassel necklace with crystals and onyx



VARIOUS bracelets of handpainted ceramics, pearls, semiprecious stones and crystals

When semiprecious is ultra-precious

By Bea P. Valdes
Contributor
Photos by Chito Vecina
VISUAL CONCEPT BY ALBERT AVELLANA

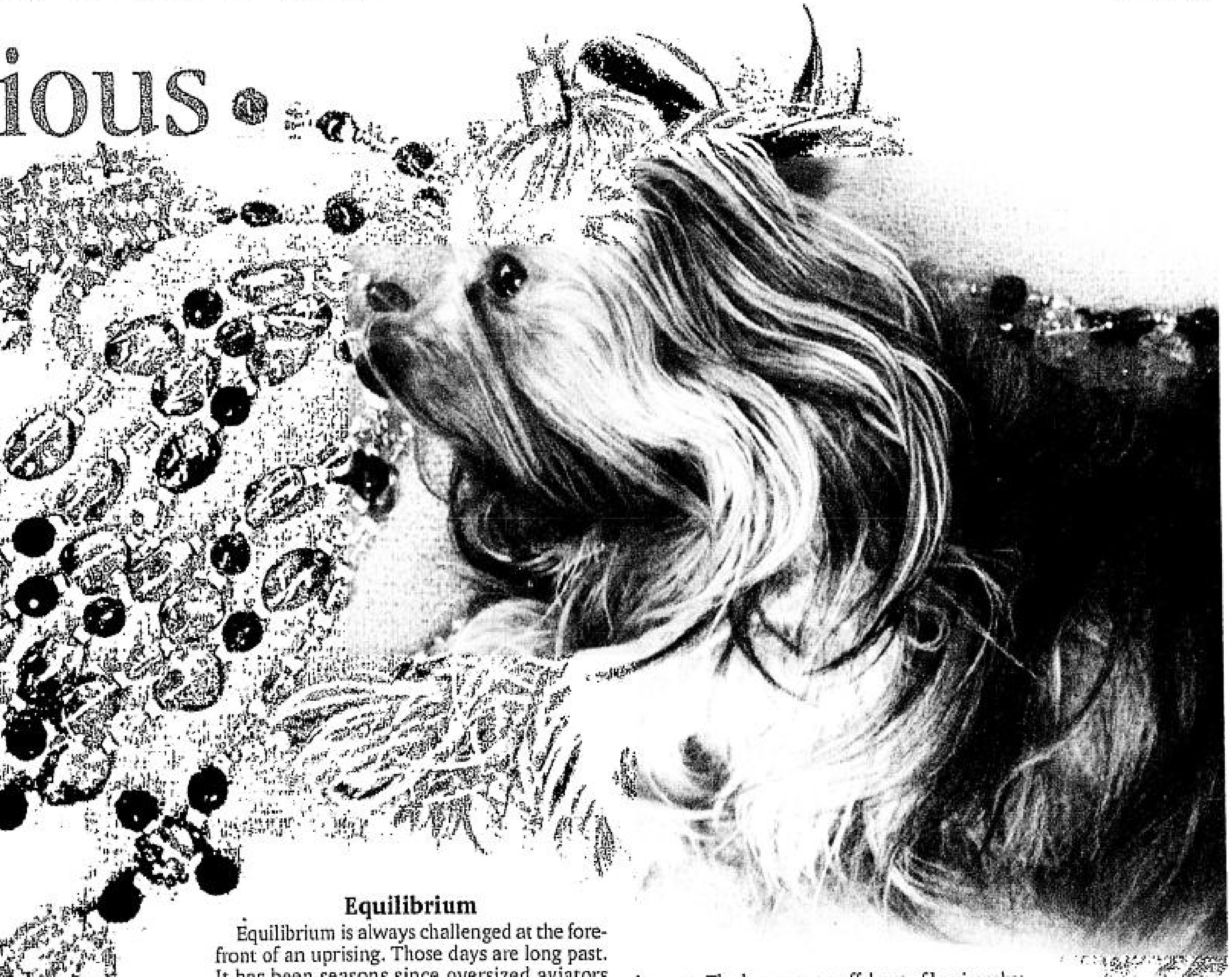
REVIEW recent history and you will find that the world had been surviv-ing on capsule wardrobes. Minimalism and monochrome were fashion's vernacular. If at all, punctuations of jewelry were found in gold and diamonds.

Then came the great flood of color. In texture and layered lines, our lingo turned rainbow. With the temperature rising from hemline to neckline, a revival of semiprecious stones emerged.

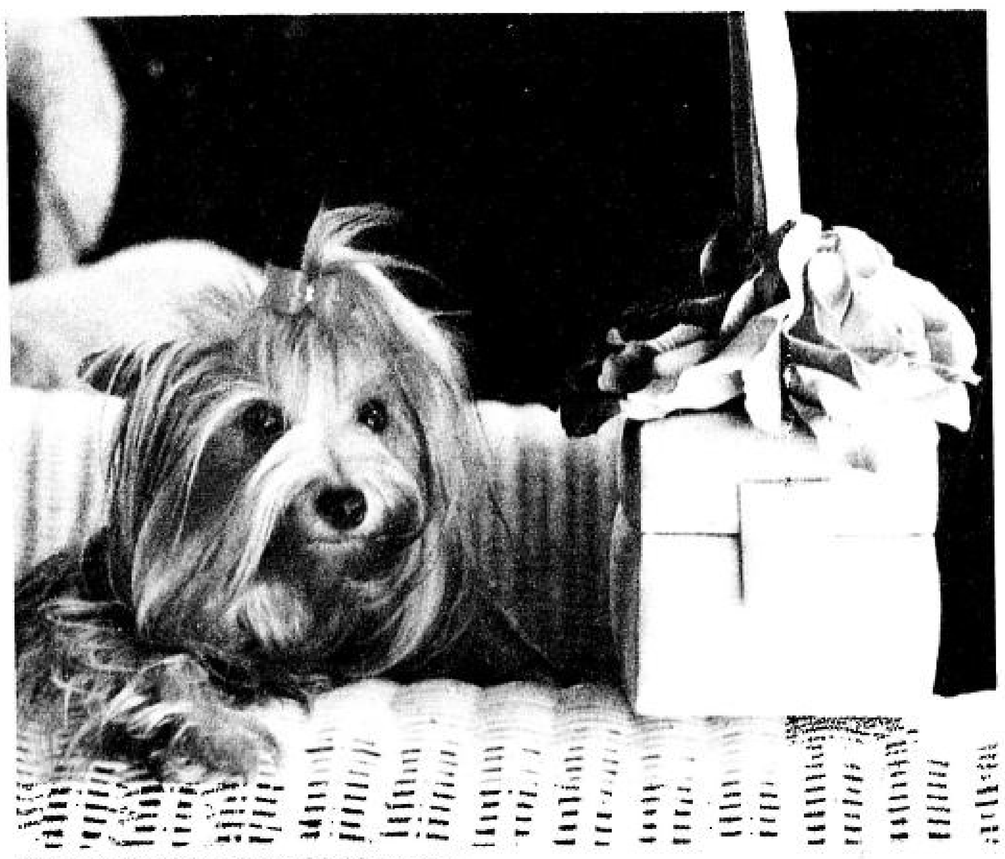
Blame it on Carine Roitfeld, the muse of Gucci, now editor of French Vogue. A few years back, she had styled an editorial for one of the glossy fashion bibles. In it, she threw out sun-varnished images, part Palm Beach and part Studio 54. Predating the "Charlie's Angels" return, the model donning flippy Farrah Fawcett hair had against her tanned décolletage a necklace of hefty slices of quartz. From tangerine to burnt amber, those crystals clashed in hues that were wickedly garish.

At a time when minimalism's sleek was the tired norm, those pieces were chosen for their unpolished frenzy. Abrupt, shocking and overtly sensual, these accessories were a scream for a final liberation from androgyny. The style police set their sirens wailing against the rebirth of bohemia. But, in Roitfeld's words: "To my knowledge, no one has been arrested for being too chic."

SPECIAL THANKS TO DR. FROILAN SANTOS FOR HIS YORKSHIRE TERRIERS



CARNELIAN, agate and citrine lariat; citrine necklace with smokey topaz cross; three-strand necklace with smokey topaz and citrine



SILVER-GRAY box bag with blue roses

Equilibrium

Equilibrium is always challenged at the forefront of an uprising. Those days are long past. It has been seasons since oversized aviators turned candy-tinted. The semiprecious revolution has found refinement as evident in the pieces of Lilibeth Fernandez-Campos.

She is a meticulous composer. Intricately beaded, twined and coiled, her works are a collaboration of elements. There are chunks of turquoise and Swarovski crystals, rolled sprays of ocean jasper, teardrops of Botswana agate and smokey topaz, rose quartz, tiny pebbles of lapis lazuli, carnelian and fluorite, beads of garnet and jade, strings of coral, onyx and Philippine pearls. All are seemingly plucked from some earthy hothouse.

What she creates from this blunted minerals are diverse: bracelets in beads of handpainted ceramic, single-strand necklaces with carved tiger's eye and sandstone, multistrands with tasseled edges possibly with chips of peridot, amethyst and citrine. She has lariats that are two-toned: one side onyx and the other coral. They can hang casually in a loose knot against the clavicle. Both graphic and sexy, they can also be knotted against the nape, leaving a long train of lavender-tinted pearls and amethyst grazing across the naked back.

People are learning to use jewelry in a broader sense now. Semiprecious is accessible and the grand equalizer. It straddles formal and casual and accommodates any age that understands style.

Inimitable

Because of the irregular nature of semiprecious stones, each piece is inimitable. A catalog of the designs that Fernandez-Campos has finished or sold does not exist. She does not retrace the paths of memory, to ensure there is no exact encore. When a color, an image, a novelty of crafting sparks inspiration, only then does she begin to design, feeding off what she finds fresh and exciting. Her mood is her manifesto.

This is also apparent in her range of delicate to dramatic bags. Fernandez-Campos' creativity branches out, brushing one area of design and the next. The bags are an offshoot of her jewelry line. She makes purses that have handles of dalmatian and picture jasper, unakite and Swarovski crystals. A line of dainty box frame bags is marched out, with fabric roses blooming out of them, reminiscent of Lulu Guinness.

A designer once said: "In the end, being a designer is all about having an opinion." And how does one begin to get their first clients? His answer was sweet and succinct: "Go to parties."

There is both humor and truth in that advertising. Fernandez-Campos certainly has an opinion of design, and this is vividly expressed. She started making purely for her own use. At lunches or dinners, friends would ask her where she had gotten her emerald necklace, or that arrangement of gems on her wrist. They offered to buy her pieces right off. Soon she began making pieces for her acquaintances. When wearing her lariats, bracelets and jeweled purses, she began to get comments and inquiries on them, too. Exponentially, through word of mouth, and notice of neck, her hobby became serious trade.

Asked what is most rewarding about the whole process, she smiles. Conceptualizing has no singular hallmark, she says, as it is dappled from moment to moment. She does not fix a schedule for creativity or for dogmatic manufacturing. The crafting itself is tedious and each creation is a whole new study in itself. The true thrill comes when people tell her that they have really enjoyed her pieces; they marvel at her stone choreography. It is an acknowledgement of craft and artistic faculty. And they still have not stopped offering to purchase her pieces off her neck.

The sweet compliment continues when she does "go to parties," perhaps with a twined multistrand necklace of Botswana agate. In the reversal of the American Express ad, sometimes, she comes home without it.

Prices are available on request. Call Lilibeth Fernandez-Campos at 844-6387/0220

It's a 'wine lifestyle'

From page F1

Not accidental

The ambiance is not accidental—it was designed for businessmen who want to talk shop over fine food and spirits amid a calming nature. This destressing balance of corporate chic and nature was not the handiwork of any Filipino interior designer; it was a design template given by Hong Kong, since Yats International Limited is a HK-based investment firm with a wide range of financial and business investments in major cities in Asia.

Swiss chef **Chris Locher** prepared a gourmet lunch that began with pan-fried *foie de canard* with *perigeaux* truffle essence served on lukewarm *tabuela* salad with mushroom and cabbage. It came with a glass of Barsac, its sweetness a good foil to the foie gras. It was what a prelude to the main attraction should be—light but inviting. Following it was chestnut cream espresso, garnished with cream, parma ham flakes and fresh marjoram. After the noon drive through the Expressway, I found this espresso revitalizing. Before we could have our fish, Denny, who was visibly in control, toured us around the Club, showed us the state-of-the-art boardroom, the finely furnished shower room (catharsis after the business deal, obviously), the game room with the card table and TV and, finally, the Club's biggest come-on—its wine cellar touted to be the best in the country now because of its trove of legendary wines. Of course like a non-connoisseur but nosy journalist, I asked for the Petrus made infamous by Erap. The cellar had Chateau Petrus 1947 and more. Among others, it had the Chateau Margaux 1900, considered one of the century's most renowned wines, costing a six-figure sum; 1899 vintages, including from the Chateau d' Yquem and Bordeaux from Chateau Mouton Rothschild; the burgundies (including La Tache, Romanee-Conti). I vowed to bring Doreen, **Alfredo Pio de Roda III**, **"Mrs. M"** and other connoisseur friends to the Club whose passion for wine could perhaps match Denny's. (The Club also has a collection of cigars and cigarettes.)

Bambi, who's a young graduate of the Culinary Institute of America in New York and now the consultant to Fidel, was sufficiently awed by the time we resumed our meal—pan-roasted Scandinavian snowfish fillet with saffron sabayon served on risotto. After the peppermint and green tea sherbet, we had the oven-roasted pheasant breast with red wine reduction, that came with a 1996 Beaune Greves.

After this meal, I knew I couldn't get back into office mode for the rest of the day, not when I was on leisure overdrive. Unlike my usual lunches (with Ladies Who Lunch), this didn't leave me stuffed but, let's say, filled and revived; the wine perked up my faculties.

Our senses having been taken care of, now, the conversation to feed the curiosity. Chef Chris, who seemed like the martinet in the kitchen, has been in the country for more than a decade and has done the culinary route here, including a stint at ADB. It seems his zeal in the kitchen is matched only by his yearning for his cuisine to be not only appreciated, but also understood, by his diners.

Why a wine club at Clark? "A wine lifestyle is evolving worldwide," said Denny. "Now when people dine out, they think not only of the meal, but the wine to look forward to. Very often, the wine you'll have indicates how special the evening will be, how special the person you'll be dining with."

It took this Hong Kong-born, urbane businessman to define what I've been observing in recent years, even in Metro Manila that has seen the sprouting of wine bars and the growing habit of drinking wine, in both the young and the old. Wine is no longer an inaccessible luxury to the Filipino urbanite. (The young are learning to guzzle up, not sip, wine, as they do beer, which is not necessarily a plus for connoisseurs.) Wine connoisseurship is becoming a defining, even exciting, element of social and corporate lifestyle. The country's top corporations with executive dining restos compete where wine cellars are concerned.

Hands-on

From the way he's hands-on at the Wine Club, it's obvious that Denny loves fine cuisine and exquisite wines. He savors the good life and has the psyche, taste and means to do so. A graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, he lived in the US for years, and has been living out of Hong Kong in recent years, mostly in cities where Yats has investments in. In the Philippines, he is tasked to develop leisure facilities; thus, the Clearwater Country Club, also in Clark.

Why Clark? Basically, because it has a ready infrastructure and is very accessible. With the Wine Club, Denny believes Clark can be a one-stop center for businessmen where they can meet, wine and dine, and relax—with amenities and facilities that are not intrusive but comfortable, efficient and chic nonetheless. The Wine Club is open for membership but, with advanced reservations, also welcomes other diners. (So you don't have to seek me out, you can just call its Manila office at 633-1566 or at Clark [6345] 599-5600.)

Apparently Denny and his firm have hitched their wagon to a star, in this case, the Philippine lifestyle. It's a journey that should be interesting to see. Judging from how Pinoys want to live it up again, or at least get away from it all, and from how Korean and Chinese tourists are coming in again (as we saw that at Shangri-La Mactan just last week), it could be worth Denny's while.

In the meantime, Denny lives the lifestyle he sells. On one special night, he even played pop and ballads on the keyboard at the Wine Club. The man could play—cool music.

* * *

On to brief notes: The most comic-memorable line I got about last Valentine's came from a "loveless" friend, which is oh-so 2002ish. Asked how he'd spend the night, he told me with mock-sorrow: "I'd be in fetal position." I'm sure many singles were.

From **Rock Drilon**'s well-attended exhibit opening, I'll remember what the fortysomething artist said, when I told him his works seemed to have acquired a furious energy—"When you reach our age, it must be directed intensity."

Also at Rock's exhibit, I ran into **Dada Lorenzana-Santiago** who, after TV newscasting (and she was among the best) and heading De Beers here, now has an interesting vocation. As part of Evangelion Foundation Inc., she conducts workshops on values in various corporations. She and her group aim to reinforce values in the workplace.

Given the almost barren fashion-show landscape of Metro Manila, **Joey Espino** has good news. Through his CalCarrie's modeling agency, Joey is enjoying the big demand for Filipino models in neighboring Asian countries.

The jobs are streaming in, he said.

E-mail the author at tsanjuan@skyinet.net

BUSINESS amid nature

PHOTOS: GIL NARTEA

CHEF Chris Locher at the chef's table

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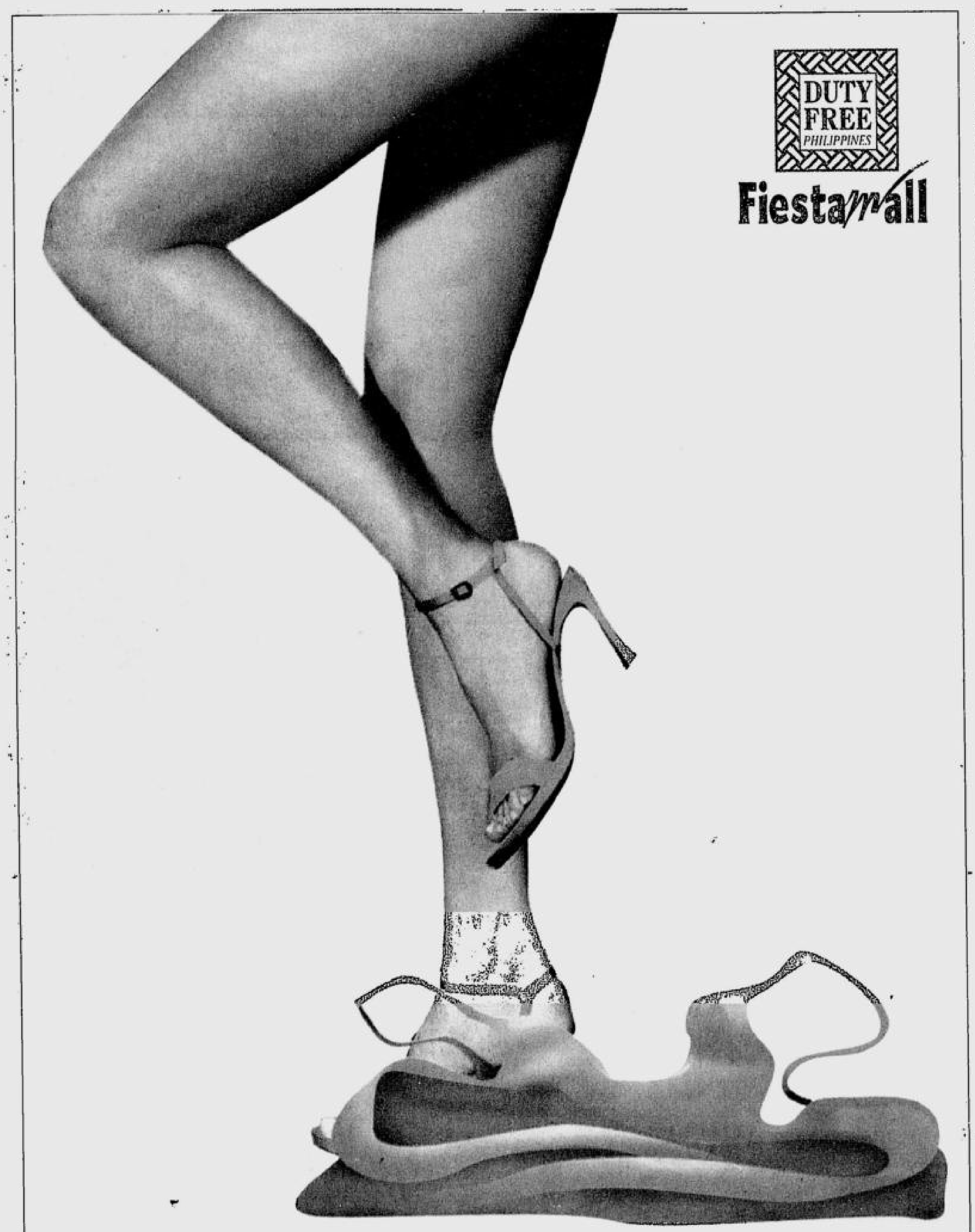

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